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**Citation for published version:**

MacQueen, S 2014, *Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2012/13: Partner Abuse*. Social Research Series, Scottish Government. <<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00454181.pdf>>

**Link:**

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

**Document Version:**

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

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# Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2012/13: Partner Abuse

# Crime and Justice



social  
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# **2012/13 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: Partner Abuse**

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**Scottish Government Social Research  
2014**

## **SCJS publications**

Main findings from the 2012/13 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey were published on 7 March 2014. This report provides additional findings and evidence on partner abuse. The dates of SCJS publications are pre-announced and can be found via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html>

Copies of this report and other SCJS related Scottish Government publications are available from the Scottish Government's survey website:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-justice/crime-and-justice-survey>

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This report is a National Statistics output produced to the highest professional standards and free from political interference. It has been produced by Sarah MacQueen working with Scottish Government Statisticians in the Justice Analytical Services Division.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is a large-scale survey measuring people's experience and perceptions of crime in Scotland. The survey is conducted biennially and based on a representative sample of adults (aged 16 and over), living in private households in Scotland. The aims of the SCJS are to:

- Provide a valid and reliable measure of people's experiences of crime, including services provided to victims of crime.
- Examine trends in the number and nature of crimes in Scotland over time.
- Examine the varying risk of crime for different groups of adults in the population.
- Collect information about people's experiences of, and attitudes to a range of crime and justice related issues.

The main survey is based on 12,045 face-to-face interviews which are conducted in private households. Respondents are also asked to answer a separate **self-completion** module on more confidential and sensitive issues, including drug taking, partner abuse, sexual victimisation and stalking. The self-completion section of the SCJS 20102/13 questionnaire was completed by 10,235 respondents, which represents 85% of all respondents.

This report examines the prevalence and nature of partner abuse in Scotland. The data presented in this report were collected through the self-completion module of the survey. The 2012/13 survey is the fourth sweep of the SCJS to include a partner abuse questionnaire, with previous data sweeps conducted in 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11.

## Key Findings:

Through an examination of the extent of partner abuse in Scotland; the nature, context and impact of abuse on individuals and their families; and patterns of victim reporting and help-seeking, and police awareness of abuse, this report presents a complex picture of the risk and experience of partner abuse in Scotland. Key findings are:

- The abuse experienced by individuals is likely to be ongoing in nature, with respondents reporting recent incidents (i.e. those occurring within the last 12 months) as being preceded by incidents occurring prior to this timeframe:
  - 3% of adults report experiencing partner abuse (psychological or physical) within the last 12 months, however 14% of adults report experiencing partner abuse (psychological or physical) since they were 16;
  - Almost two thirds (61%) of those experiencing partner abuse within the last 12 months had prior experience of partner abuse.
- The risk and experience of abuse appears to vary by gender (and other characteristics) For example:
  - While the risk of partner abuse in the last 12 months is the same for men and women (3%), women were more likely than men to report partner abuse since the age of 16 (17% compared to 10%);
  - Women victims of abuse are significantly more likely than men to report experiences (since age 16) of a number of forms of psychological abuse (such as being repeatedly put down by a partner (56% of women compared to 28% of men) , having a partner threaten to hurt them (37% of women compared to 17% of men), or having a partner withhold money from them (23% of women compared to 8% of men)) and particular forms of physical abuse (such as being pushed or held down by a partner (49% of women compared to 15% of men) or having a partner choke or attempt to strangle/ smother them (24% of women compared to 3% of men)).
  - In addition, those living in more deprived areas and those who were victims of other types of crime were also more likely than other adults to have experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months (6% compared to 2% respectively, for each).
- The impact of abuse is shown to be wide ranging and to manifest in a variety of ways, although, overall, psychological effects are more commonly reported in the survey than physical effects. However not all respondents who experienced psychological or physical abuse considered themselves to be victims of domestic abuse:
  - Almost two thirds of respondents (61%) reported experiencing psychological effects as a result of the most recent incident of abuse, compared to less than half (45%) reporting physical effects;
  - Just under half (48%) of those who reported having an experience of psychological or physical abuse at some point since they were 16 considered themselves to have been a victim of domestic abuse;
- It is likely that partner abuse does not just impact on the direct victim, and that effects may extend to wider family:

- One third (33%) of those respondents experiencing partner abuse within the last 12 months reported that children were living in their household when the most recent incident took place;
- Of those victims who had children living in their household, just over two thirds (67%) reported that the children were present (in or around the house or close by) during the most recent incident.
- The impact of abuse varies by gender:
  - Women are significantly more likely than men to report experiencing multiple psychological impacts as a result of their abuse in the last 12 months, with 20% reporting four or more psychological effects compared to only 5% of men.
  - Women are more likely to experience some of the more common psychological effects as a result of partner abuse within the last 12 months than men, such as: psychological or emotional problems (47% compared to 29% men) and fear, anxiety and panic attacks (27% compared to 11% men);
  - There are also differences in the impacts of physical abuse between men and women in the last 12 months; however the only identified significant difference is that men are more likely than women to report scratches and minor cuts (22% compared to 10% of women).
- The majority of individuals do not report their experiences of abuse to formal agencies, and are more likely to confide in friends and relatives if they choose to tell anyone about their experiences:
  - 64% of those who had experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months had told at least one person or organisation about their most recent (or only) experience of abuse;
  - However, friends (35%) and relatives (27%) were the most commonly confided in, with smaller proportions of victims reporting to professionals, such as doctors (10%) or police (13%).
- Less than a quarter of individuals stated that the police had come to know about the most recent incident of abuse, and the data suggest that this small group of individuals may draw repeatedly on the police to respond to their ongoing experiences of abusive behaviour:
  - 21% of those who had experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months stated that the police came to know about the most recent (or only) incident (regardless of whether the victim reported the incident; someone else reported the incident on behalf of the victim; the police witnessed the incident directly; or the police found out in some other way).

- 83% of those who stated the police knew about the most recent incident also said the police knew about other previous incidents in the last year;
- Women were more likely than men to state the police came to know about the most recent and any other incidents of partner abuse within the last 12 months (32% of women compared to 9% of men and 31% of women and 10% of men respectively).

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Introduction

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is a large-scale survey measuring adults' experience and perceptions of crime in Scotland. The main aims of the SCJS are to:

- Provide a valid and reliable measure of adults' experience of crime, including services provided to victims of crime.
- Examine trends in the number and nature of crime in Scotland over time.
- Examine the varying risk of crime for different groups of adults in the population.
- Collect information about adults' experiences of, and attitudes to, a range of crime and justice related issues.

The main survey is based on face-to-face interviews which were conducted in respondents homes between April 2012 and March 2013. In 2012/13, 12,045 respondents completed the main survey. Respondents were also asked to answer a separate self-completion module on more confidential and sensitive issues, including drug taking, partner abuse, sexual victimisation and stalking. This self-completion section was completed by 12,045 respondents (85% of all respondents).

This report presents the key findings from the partner abuse module, addressing the overarching question: what do we know about partner abuse in Scotland? Three substantive chapters consider the extent of partner abuse in Scotland; the nature, context and impact of abuse on individuals and their families; and patterns of victim reporting and help-seeking, and police awareness of abuse.

Overall, this report presents a complex picture of partner abuse in Scotland, highlighting the ongoing extent of the problem and the variation in risk for different groups in Scottish society. The survey data suggest that individuals can experience a broad spectrum of abuse at the hands of partners, and the effects of this abuse, often multiple and accumulated in nature, can be serious and wide-reaching to the families of victims. Moreover, much of the abuse reported in the survey goes 'under the radar' of formal agencies where help could be sought from, with victims more likely to confide in friends and relatives about their experiences.

The report focuses largely on the full sample of survey respondents and on those identifying as having experienced partner abuse. Where data is sufficient, differences in the experiences of groups of individuals are examined and presented. Key differences explored are those between men and women, where some substantial differences in the nature and impact of, and response to, abuse are observed. Other differences examined are differences by age, social deprivation and the experience of other forms of victimisation. However, further examination and analysis of the data presented here is advised before firm conclusions are drawn on these.

## 1.2 Partner Abuse

The SCJS focuses on abuse carried out by partners. Partners are defined in the questionnaire as 'any boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, wife or civil partner'.

Specifically, the SCJS gathers information about abuse carried out against adults (aged 16 and over) by their partners. It includes abuse undertaken by and against both men and women.

The terms 'partner abuse' or 'domestic abuse' are not introduced to respondents at the start of the questionnaire. Respondents are simply asked to identify which, if any, of a range of abusive behaviours they have experienced since they were 16. The behaviours presented to respondents include psychological abuse (such as emotional or financial abuse) and physical abuse. Follow up questions are asked if respondents specify that their experience(s) of abuse took place within the 12 months leading up to their survey interview.

The definition of partner abuse applied in the survey is in line with the definition adopted by the police in recording domestic abuse:

*'...any form of physical, non-physical or sexual abuse, which takes place within the context of a close relationship, committed either in the home or elsewhere. This relationship will be between partners (married, co-habiting or otherwise) or ex-partners.'*

However, it should be noted that there is no single, universally accepted definition of domestic abuse. The Scottish Government's definition characterises domestic abuse as:

*'a pattern of coercive control escalating in frequency and severity over time'*

This is in line with much academic literature, wherein a distinction is made between:

- Coercive control – an on-going process whereby one partner (most commonly a man) uses various means (including often, but not always, escalating physical violence) to hurt, humiliate, intimidate, exploit, isolate and dominate the other partner (most commonly a woman)
- Situational couple violence – act-based, consisting of specific abusive acts perpetrated by one or both partners (both men and women), without an underlying dynamic of domination and control<sup>1</sup>.

The survey is able to capture elements of both of the experiences defined above. The inclusion of questions on psychological abuse that focus on mechanisms of control exerted by partners and follow up question on the emotional impact of such abuse allow identification of individuals experiencing the most extreme forms of abuse, violence and coercive control. However, complex analyses are required to fully extrapolate further details about those respondents experiencing coercive control from the survey data and these are not undertaken in this report.

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<sup>1</sup> The literature on defining domestic violence is broad. For examples of literature drawn on to develop these definitions see Stark, E. (2007) *Coercive Control: How men entrap women in personal life*, New York: Oxford University Press or Johnson, M.P. (2001) 'Conflict and Control: Symmetry and Asymmetry in Domestic Violence', in Booth, A., Crouter, A.C. and Clements, M. (eds.) *Couples in Conflict*, Mahwah: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates

## **Partner abuse, sexual victimisation and stalking**

There may be some overlap between incidents of partner abuse detailed in this report, and respondent's experiences of sexual victimisation and stalking, which are presented separately in the accompanying SCJS report. However, quantifying this type of association is not completely straightforward and is beyond the scope of this report. For example, it is possible that some incidents of partner abuse reported here might also be duplicated in the accompanying Sexual Victimisation and Stalking report. Conversely, some incidents of sexual victimisation and harassment detailed in that report might actually be classified as partner abuse, but not reported as such by respondents in response to the questions posed to them in the partner abuse module.

To confirm, the relationship between different types of sexual victimisation, stalking and partner abuse is not examined within the context of this report, however, given the scope of the SCJS 2012/13 dataset, this is a potential area for future research.

### **1.3 Methodology**

The SCJS 2012/13 fieldwork was conducted between April 2012 and March 2013. Whilst the design of the 2012/13 SCJS remains broadly similar that used in the sweeps from 2008/09 to 2010/11, in 2012/13 survey moved to a single stage, unclustered sample design. Further information on the background to the survey, methodology, purpose and limitations of the survey, and comparisons between different sweeps can be found in the SCJS 2012/13 Main Findings report (sections 1.1 to 1.4) and also in the Technical Report 2. A full transcript of the self-completion questionnaire is provided in the Annex 3 of this report.

#### **Statistical significance**

Tests for statistical significance in the report were carried out using the Pearson chi-square test in SPSS. All significant associations in the report were found to be statistically significant at the  $p \leq 0.001$  level. Tests for strength of association were carried out using Phi and Cramer's V tests in SPSS.

The assessments of statistical change over time which are presented in this report use estimated confidence intervals around survey results to examine whether the change is statistically significant. The estimated confidence intervals used in these tests use generic SCJS design factors of 1.3 for 2012-13 and 1.5 for earlier surveys. More detail on the derivation of these design factors is available in Annex 4 of the [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2012/13: Main Findings](#) report.

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<sup>2</sup> The technical report is available from the Scottish Government website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications/SCJS2012-13-TR>.

## **1.4 Data Strengths and Limitations**

### **1.4.1 Data strengths**

One of main strengths of crime and victimisation surveys is that they provide a complementary measure of crime to police recorded crime statistics. The limitations of police recorded crime are well established. For example, people may be unwilling to report crimes for a range of reasons, including a perceived lack of benefit, fear of reprisal, vulnerability, an inability to identify assailants, or an unwillingness to bring the victims conduct to the attention of the police. Some types of crime are also less likely to be reported than others. For example, sexual crimes are less likely to be reported to the police than property crimes. Police recorded crime may also be influenced by police practices, for example, officers may not record all crimes that are reported to the police.

In contrast, SCJS data are unlikely to be influenced by attitudes towards the police and are unaffected by police recording procedures. The data can also capture crimes of a sensitive nature that are less likely to be reported. As such, the survey can provide a better reflection as to the extent of some types of crime than police recorded statistics. Unlike police recorded crime (which measures incidence or the number of crimes), the SCJS can also provide a measure of prevalence, that is, the risk of experiencing different types of crime within a certain time period. The survey also provides information on respondent's reasons for not reporting crimes to the police, and on their attitudes towards the criminal justice system more broadly.

### **1.4.2 Data limitations**

The main limitations of the study result from sampling limitations and the types of crimes surveyed. In terms of sampling, the survey is of adults aged 16 and over, living in private residential households only. As such, persons under the age of 16, and populations living in group residences such as care homes, halls of residences, hospitals, prisons or other communal accommodation are excluded.

The survey also excludes certain types of crime including homicide, crimes against business (for example, shoplifting) and 'victimless' crimes, such as speeding, as well as crimes committed against those populations who are excluded from the survey.

### **1.4.3 Recall and accuracy**

There may be errors in the recall of participants as to when certain incidents took place, or the number of incidents which took place. This observation is particularly relevant to the type of partner abuse, sexual offences and harassment asked about in the self-completion questionnaire, which may be on-going. For example, it may be difficult for respondents to recall the exact number of incidents, or respondent may not want to either remember or report some experiences.

## **1.5 Structure of the report**

The report proceeds as follows:

**Chapter 2** examines the extent of partner abuse among adults in Scotland. The overall prevalence of partner abuse is considered, including the proportion of respondents experiencing partner abuse at any point since they were age 16 and the

proportion of respondents reporting an experience of partner abuse that occurred within the last 12 months. The variation in risk of experiencing partner abuse by different demographic, experiential and area-related characteristics is explored, and the numbers of incidents of abuse reported by respondents critically examined.

**Chapter 3** examines the nature of partner abuse experienced by adults responding to the survey, and the characteristics of the relationships in which the abuse has taken place. The effects of abuse are also explored and how respondents define their experiences considered. Specifically, the chapter covers: the forms of physical and psychological abuse experienced since the age of 16; the number of abusive partners individuals report having since the age of 16, and their gender; whether respondents were living with their partners at the time of the most recent incident of abuse, and whether they were at the time of the survey interview; whether children were present and/ or involved in the most recent incident of abuse; the effects of the most recent, and other, incidents of abuse experienced within the last 12 months; and whether respondents perceive their most recent incident of partner abuse as a crime, or believe that they have been a victim of domestic abuse.

**Chapter 4** examines victim reporting behaviour and broader police awareness of victim experience. The following topics are covered: whether adults who have experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months have told anyone about their most recent, and other, incidents of abuse; whether the police came to know about the most recent, or other, incidents of abuse; why the police were not made aware about the most recent incident of abuse; and how satisfied respondents were with the police in dealing with the abuse.

**Annex 1** contains additional data tables showing the percentage of adults who experienced partner abuse overall and in its various forms, since the age of 16 and within the last 12 months. The data are broken down by a range of demographic, experiential and area-related variables.

**Annex 2** provides information on the methods employed in the SCJS 2012-13, focusing specifically on the self-completion questionnaire. This includes information on the questionnaire, interview techniques, and the weighting used in the analysis of the results.

## **1.6 Conventions used in figures and tables**

### **Figures and tables**

Each figure or table has a title, the data source (survey year), a base description, the unweighted base (unless provided in the table or figure), and the SPSS variables.

For example:

#### **Figure 2.1 Risk of experiencing partner abuse**

Source: SCJS 2012/13

*Base: Adults who have had a partner since the age of 16 (9,648); adults who have had a partner or been in contact with an ex-partner within the last 12 months (7,180)*

*Variable name: DA\_1i; DA\_1iii*

## **Unweighted bases**

All SCJS percentages and rates presented in the tables and figures are based on weighted data (data that are adjusted to be more representative of the population).

The unweighted bases (which represent the actual number of respondents in relation to each category) are shown in the tables and figures, and denoted 'Base'. Some unweighted bases are also cited within the main text, and are denoted 'n' (for example, n = 580).

## **Percentages**

Row or column percentages may not add to 100 per cent due to rounding. Also, not all percentages may be shown. For example, the percentage of those who refused to answer a question, or those who responded 'don't know' may not be shown. Percentages quoted in the report may also represent variables that allow respondents to choose multiple responses. Again, these percentages will not add up to 100 per cent, rather they represent the percentage of those who answered the question that selected a certain response category.

## **Table abbreviations**

' #' Indicates that data is not available in data tables because the unweighted base is less than 50.

' – ' Indicates that no respondents gave an answer in the category

' \* ' Indicates less than 0.5% (this does not apply when percentages are presented to one decimal point).

## 2. THE EXTENT OF PARTNER ABUSE

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings on the extent of partner abuse among adults in Scotland. The following topics are covered:

- The overall prevalence of partner abuse, including:
  - the proportion of respondents experiencing partner abuse at any point since they were age 16 and,
  - the proportion of respondents reporting an experience of partner abuse that occurred within the last 12 months;
- The variation in risk of experiencing partner abuse by different demographic, experiential and area-related characteristics;
- The numbers of incidents of abuse reported by respondents.

### Chapter Findings

The prevalence of abuse varies according to whether the experience occurred since age 16 or within the last 12 months:

- 14% of adults report experiencing partner abuse (psychological or physical) since they were 16;
- 3% of adults report experiencing partner abuse (psychological or physical) within the last 12 months;
- Almost two thirds (61%) of those experiencing partner abuse within the last 12 months were experiencing ongoing abuse beginning before that time period.

The risk of experiencing partner abuse within the last 12 months varies by key characteristics:

- The risk of partner abuse is the same for men and women (3%), but women were more likely to report abuse since the age of 16 than men (17% compared to 10%);
- The likelihood of reporting an experience of partner abuse occurring within the last 12 months decreases with age from 5% for 16-24 years old to less than 1% for 65+ years old;
- Respondents living within the most deprived areas of Scotland were more likely than those living in the rest of Scotland to report experiencing partner abuse, both within the last 12 months (6% and 2% respectively) and since age 16 (19% and 13% respectively);
- Those who reported that they had experienced other forms of crime in the SCJS were also more likely than those who had not to have experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months (6% compared to 2%).

Just under half (48%) of those who had experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months reported that they had only experienced one incident of abuse in that time period. However 31% did not answer this question, with 16% stating that they 'did not know' how many incidents took place and 15% stating they 'did not wish to answer'. Six per cent stated they had experienced too many incidents to count.



## 2.2 Presence of a partner

By the definition applied in the SCJS, partner abuse can only occur if someone has a partner. Therefore, all survey respondents were asked if they had a partner since the age of 16 and whether they had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the last 12 months.

Almost all adults (94%, n=10,235) reported having had a partner at some point since they were aged 16. Of those who had a partner at some point since they were 16, 79% (n=9,648) reported having had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the last 12 months.

Only those who reported having a partner at some point since the age of 16 were asked the questions on experience of partner abuse and therefore only this group of adults were included in the analysis for this report. In some instances the report presents data on partner abuse occurring at any point since the age of 16, while in others it focuses on partner abuse that occurred within the last 12 months.

## 2.3 Risk of experiencing partner abuse

Overall, 14% of respondents (n=9,648) reported having experienced at least one incident of partner abuse (psychological or physical) since they were 16 years old.

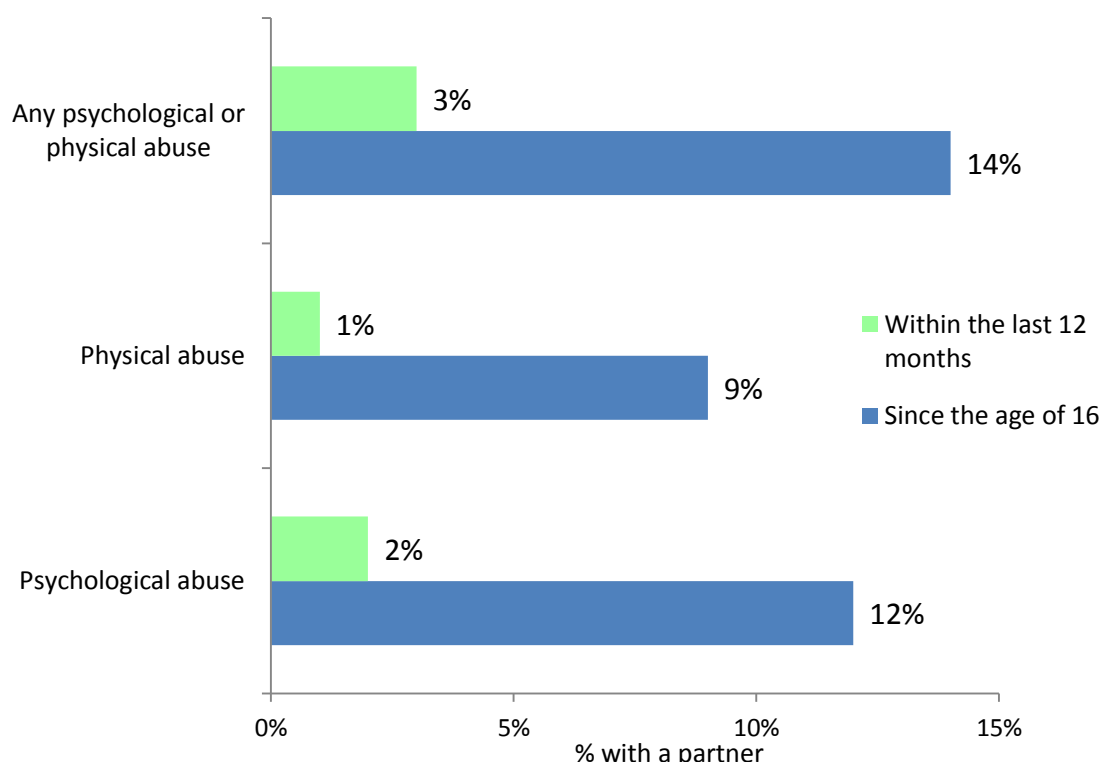
- 12% reported experiencing at least one incident of psychological abuse since age 16;
- 9% reported having experienced at least one incident of physical abuse since age 16;
- 7% reported experiencing *both* psychological *and* physical abuse since age 16.

Of the respondents who had a partner or had been in contact with an ex-partner within the last 12 months, 3% (n=7,180) reported experiencing at least one incident of partner abuse (psychological or physical) in that time period.

- 2% had experienced at least one incident of psychological abuse within the last 12 months;
- 1% had experienced at least one incident of physical abuse within the last 12 months;
- 1% reported experiencing *both* psychological *and* physical abuse within the last 12 months.

**Figure 2.1** below compares the proportions of respondents reporting experiences of abuse since they were age 16 and within the last 12 months:

**Figure 2.1 Risk of experiencing partner abuse**  
SCJS 2012-13



*Base: Adults who have had a partner since the age of 16 (9,648); adults who have had a partner or been in contact with an ex-partner within the last 12 months (7,180)*  
*Variable name: DA\_1i; DA\_1iii*

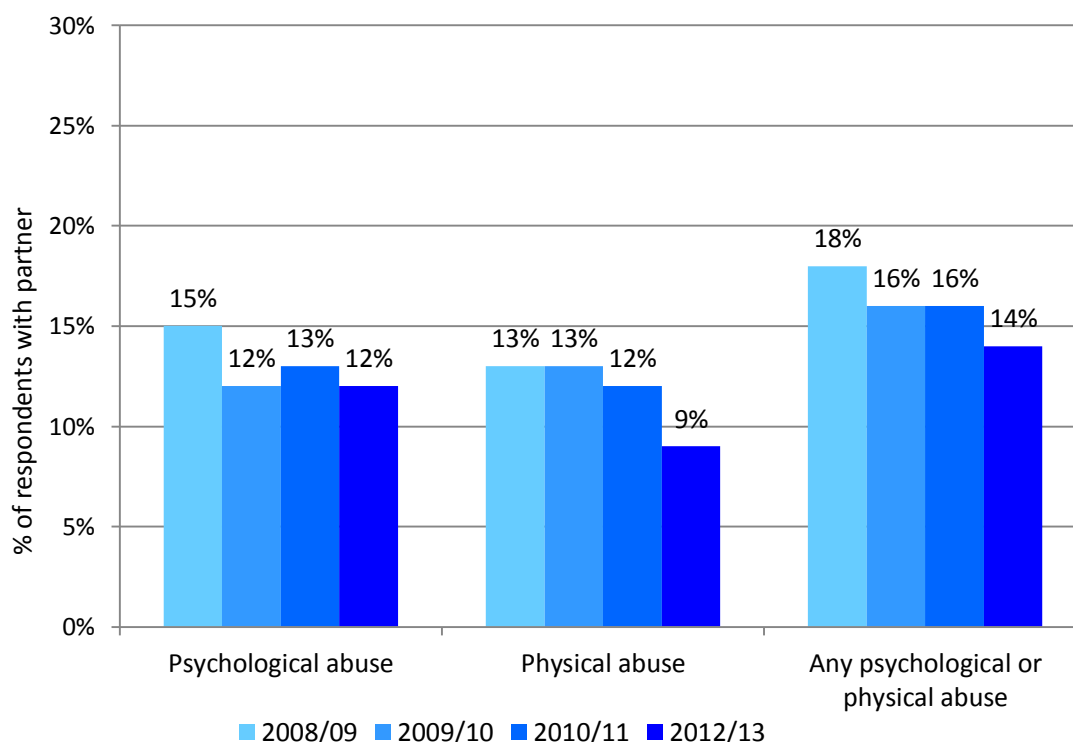
Of those adults who had experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months, 61% (n=234) also had prior experience of such victimisation (i.e. experience of abuse that took place prior to the last 12 months). The data does not allow clear determination of whether the experience over the short and longer term represents continuous abuse perpetrated by a single partner, but the pattern does indicate that for the majority of these respondents, their experience is of ongoing abuse.

## 2.4 Risk of partner abuse – comparison with other survey years

The findings highlighted above in **section 2.4** can be compared against the findings from previous sweeps of the SCJS. **Figure 2.2** shows the proportion of respondents reporting that they had experienced at least one incident of partner abuse since they were age 16 across the comparable surveys from 2008 onwards<sup>3</sup>:

<sup>3</sup> Comparable questions on the experience of partner abuse have been asked in each sweep of the SCJS since 2008-09. Four sweeps have been conducted, all drawing on representative samples of adults residing in private households in Scotland. Further information about each sweep is available on <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey>

**Figure 2.2 Comparing risk of experiencing partner abuse across survey years (since age 16 only)**  
SCJS 2008-09 to 2012-13



**Figure 2.2** shows that the proportion of respondents reporting any experience of partner abuse (psychological or physical) since age 16 has remained broadly similar across the different survey years, with only very small changes occurring.

In 2010-11, 13% of respondents reported an experience of psychological abuse since they were 16, compared to 12% in 2012-13. This small change is not statistically significant.

In 2010-11, 12% of respondents reported an experience of physical abuse since they were 16, compared to 9% in 2012-13. This change over time is statistically significant. However, the results for physical abuse are not directly comparable across these survey years, due to question wording being altered for the 2012-13 sweep. To find out if individuals have experienced physical abuse since they were 16, the survey asks respondents to identify which, if any, of a range of physically abusive behaviours their partner(s) may have perpetrated against them. In 2012-13 the option 'thrown something at you' was changed to 'thrown something at you with the intention of causing harm'. This may have contributed to a decrease in the proportion of respondents responding positively to the question (8% in 2010-11, compared with 5% in 2012-13). Thus the change observed may simply be a result of the change in question wording, rather than an actual change in behaviour or experience over time.

In 2010-11, 16% of respondents reported an experience of any psychological or physical abuse, compared with 14% in 2012-13. This change is statistically

significant, but the qualification around the comparability of the surveys due to the change in question wording for aspects of physical abuse must be borne in mind in interpreting this.

Looking at the proportion of respondents reporting an experience of partner abuse within the last 12 months, a further pattern of similarity is revealed. **Table 2.1** below shows that the proportion of adults reporting any experience of abuse (psychological or physical) has remained the same since 2009-10, and that the proportion of respondents reporting an experience of psychological abuse has remained the same as in 2010-11:

**Table 2.1 Comparing risk of experiencing partner abuse across survey years (last 12 months only)**

*SCJS 2008-09 to 2012-13*

Proportion of respondents who had a partner or contact with ex-partner in last 12 months	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2012-13
Psychological abuse	4%	3%	2%	2%
Physical abuse	3%	2%	2%	1%
Any psychological or physical abuse	5%	3%	3%	3%
<b>Base</b>	<b>6,816</b>	<b>9,471</b>	<b>7,652</b>	<b>7,180</b>

There has been a small decrease in the proportion of respondents reporting an experience of physical abuse within the last 12 months (2% in 2010-11 compared to 1% in 2012-13) and this change is statistically significant. However, once again, altered question wording may be influencing this pattern.

## 2.5 Variation in risk of experiencing partner abuse

This section explores how the risk of experiencing partner abuse varies across different groups of adults in Scotland. All results are statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ) unless otherwise stated. However, the analysis presented only explores patterns between individual variables or characteristics, and the correlation coefficients achieved are comparatively weak (all less than 0.2). Thus the findings must be treated with appropriate caution. More advanced statistical modelling, that considered the joint impact of a range of variables and controlled for the effect of intervening variables, would allow clearer specification of the complex relationships discussed here.

Key factors within the survey data that are associated with, or related to, the risk of an individual experiencing partner abuse are: gender, age, deprivation and the experience of other victimisation. However, the patterns observed vary according to whether partner abuse experienced within the last 12 months or partner abuse experienced since the age of 16 (or across the life course) is being considered.

### 2.5.1 Gender

The survey reveals that the prevalence of partner abuse experienced within the last 12 months is the same for men and women (3% of each men and women, no significant difference).

Overall, 14% of adults who had had at least one partner since the age of 16 reported experiencing partner abuse (psychological or physical) since they were 16; however, when broken down by gender, 17% of women report an experience within this timeframe compared to 10% of men.

### 2.5.2 Age

**Table 2.2** below shows the variation in experience of partner abuse by age. It can be seen that younger respondents are the most likely to have reported experiencing partner abuse within the last 12 months, but that there is perhaps greater similarity across the age bands when considering reports of experiences of partner abuse since the age of 16. The oldest respondents are the least likely to report either experience in the survey:

**Table 2.2 Variation in risk by age**

SCJS 2012-13

Age band	% within age band experiencing partner abuse within the last 12 months	% within age band experiencing partner abuse since age 16
16 to 24 years	5%	16%
25 to 34 years	5%	19%
35 to 44 years	3%	18%
45 to 54 years	2%	17%
55 to 64 years	1%	11%
65 years +	*	4%

*Base: Adults who have had a partner since the age of 16 (9,648); adults who have had a partner or been in contact with an ex-partner within the last 12 months (7,180).*

### 2.5.3 Deprivation

Respondents living within the most deprived areas of Scotland (top 15% as ranked by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) were more likely than those living in the rest of Scotland to report an experience of partner abuse in the survey. Six per cent of those living in the most deprived areas reported an experience of partner abuse within the last 12 months, and 19% reported experiencing partner abuse since they were 16. This compares to 2% and 13% of respondents living in the rest of Scotland.

### 2.5.4 Other victimisation

Almost a quarter (23%) of those who reported experiencing other forms of crime within the last 12 months in the main SCJS survey also reported that they had experienced partner abuse at some point since they were 16. This compares to only 12% of those who did not report being a victim of any other crime. Likewise, 6% of those who reported being the victim of other crime reported experiencing partner abuse in the last 12 months, compared to 2% for those who did not report experiencing any other crime.

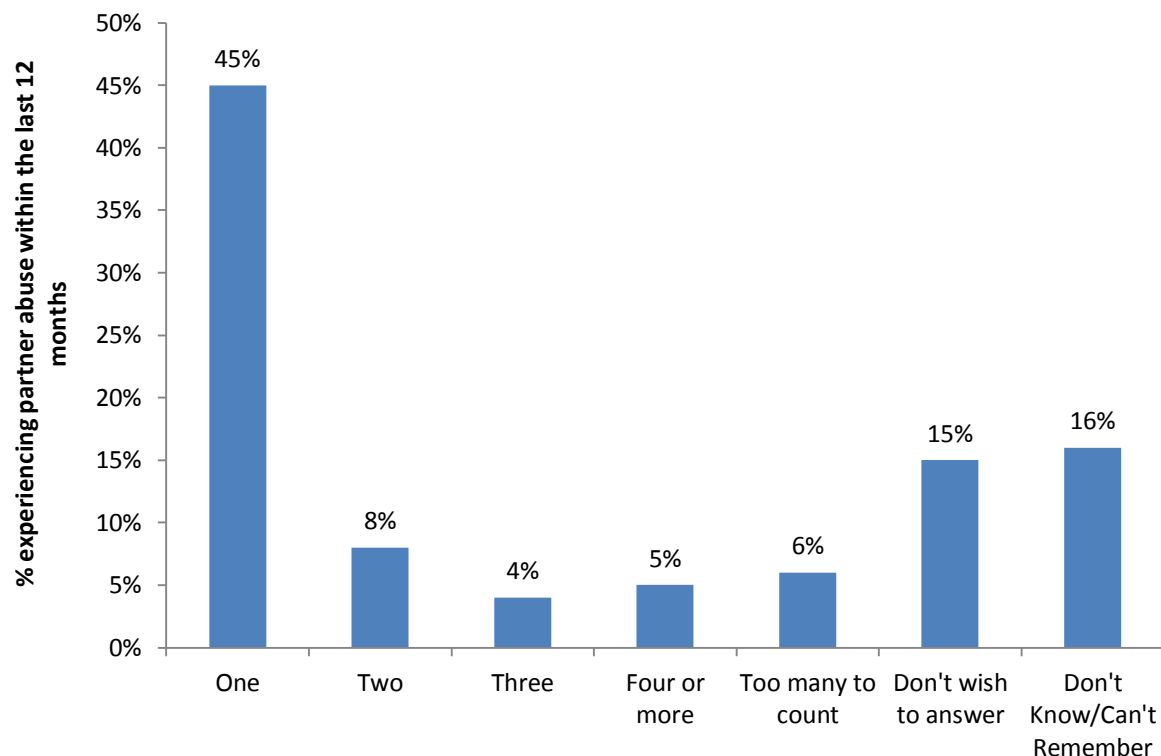
## 2.6 Numbers of incidents experienced

Those who had experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months were asked how many incidents of abuse they had experienced within that time period. Forty five per cent of respondents stated that they had only experienced one incident of partner abuse within the last 12 months. Eight per cent stated they had experienced two incidents, and 4% stated they had experienced three. Five per cent of respondents had experienced four or more incidents.

It is known that partner abuse is often ongoing in nature and, as such, it can be challenging for respondents to remember exact numbers of incidents or it can be difficult to disentangle the ongoing or continuous experience into discrete or separate incidents. Moreover, respondents may not wish to recount incidents that caused them harm. Thus respondents are given the option to state that the abuse happened 'too many times to count'. Six per cent of respondents stated that they had experienced too many incidents to count. However, a relatively large proportion of respondents (31%, n=234) stated that they did not know or that they did not wish to answer the question. **Figure 2.3** below summarises these findings:

**Figure 2.3 Number of partner abuse incidents experienced in the last 12 months**

SCJS 2012-13



*Base: Adults who had experienced partner abuse (psychological or physical) in the last 12 months (234)*

*Variable name: DA\_6*

### 3. THE NATURE, CONTEXT AND IMPACT OF PARTNER ABUSE

#### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter examines the nature of partner abuse experienced by adults responding to the survey, and the characteristics of the relationships in which the abuse has taken place. The effects of abuse are also explored and how respondents define their experiences considered. Specifically, the chapter covers:

- The forms of physical and psychological abuse experienced since the age of 16;
- The number of abusive partners individuals report having since the age of 16, and their gender;
- Whether respondents were living with their partners at the time of the most recent incident of abuse, and whether they were at the time of the survey interview;
- Whether children were present and/ or involved in the most recent incident of abuse;
- The effects of the most recent, and other, incidents of abuse experienced within the last 12 months;
- Whether respondents perceive their most recent incident of partner abuse as a crime, and whether respondents believe that they have been a victim of domestic abuse.

#### Chapter Findings

##### *Nature of abuse*

Respondents experience a range of psychological and physical abusive behaviours, and are likely to report experiencing multiple forms of abuse since they were 16:

- 12% of respondents (16% women and 8% men) report experiencing at least one form of psychological abuse since they were 16;
- The most commonly experienced forms of psychological abuse are a partner behaving in a jealous or controlling way (8%), being repeatedly put down by a partner so that the individual felt worthless (7%), a partner had threatening to hurt you (4%) and being stopped from seeing friends and relatives (4%);
- 9% of respondents (12% women and 6% men) report experiencing at least one form of physical abuse since they were 16;
- The most commonly experienced forms of physical abuse are having a partner kick, bite or hit you (5%), having a partner throw something at you with the intention to cause harm (5%) and being pushed or held down by a partner (5%);

##### *Differences between men and women*

Comparing adults who experience partner abuse by gender reveals that the nature of abuse experienced differs for men and women, with women victims of partner abuse more likely than their male counterparts to report experiences across all forms of psychological abuse since they were 16. For example women are more likely to:

- have had a partner repeatedly put them down (56% compared to 28% of men);

- have a partner threaten to hurt them (37% compared to 17% of men);
- have a partner withhold money from them (23% compared to 8% men);
- have a partner threaten to kill them (15% compared to 5% men);
- or have a partner threaten to hurt someone close to them (15% compared to 4% men).

Some forms of physical abuse are experienced overwhelmingly by women, for example:

- being pushed or held down by their partner (49% compared to 15% men);
- have a partner choke or attempt to strangle/ smother them (24% compared to 3% men);
- have a partner force, or try to force, them to have sexual intercourse (19% compared to 2% men).

However some forms of physical abuse appear to be experienced by similar proportions of men and women (i.e. there are *no significant differences* identified between women and men), for example:

- being kicked, bitten or hit (39% women and 42% men);
- having a partner throw something at you (32% women and 38% men);
- a weapon being used against you by a partner (14% women and 13% men).

#### *Partner and relationship details*

The majority (70%) of respondents who had experienced partner abuse since they were 16 reported only having had one abusive partner.

Just over a third (38%) of those who had experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months were living with the abusive partner at the time of the most recent incident. It is not possible to fully determine from the data whether respondents were reporting abuse perpetrated by current or ex-partners, but half (50%) of those who were living with the abusive partner at the time of the most recent incident of abuse reported that they were still living with the abusive partner at the time of survey interview. Thus, it can be speculated that this small group of respondents were referring to abuse perpetrated by their current partner.

#### *Presence of children*

One third (33%) of those respondents experiencing partner abuse within the last 12 months reported that children were living in their household when the most recent incident took place. 67% of these respondents said that children living in their household were present (in or around the house or close by) during the most recent incident. In 72% of cases children that were present during the most recent incident saw or heard what happened.

#### *Effects of abuse*

Respondents reported experiencing a wide range of psychological and physical effects as a result of abuse. Psychological effects are more commonly reported overall than physical (61% of respondents compared to 45% reporting physical effects). The most commonly reported psychological effects are psychological and emotional problems, such as depression and difficulty sleeping (39%), a loss of trust in other people and difficulty in other relationships (20%), and fear, anxiety and panic



attacks (19%), while the most commonly experienced physical effects of abuse are minor bruising or black eyes (26%), scratches or minor cuts (16%) and severe bruising (8%).

Women and men also reported differing impacts of partner abuse. For example, women are more likely than men to experience some of the most common psychological effects, such as psychological or emotional problems (47% compared to 29% men), and fear, anxiety and panic attacks (27% compared to 11% men). There are also differences in the impacts of physical abuse between men and women however the only identified significant difference is that men are more likely than women to report scratches and minor cuts (22% compared to 10% of women). Overall it should be noted that women are more likely to report an accumulation of psychological and physical effects, with 20% reporting four or more psychological effects compared to only 5% of men (statistically significant) and 10% reporting three or more physical effects compared to only 2% of men (not statistically significant).

### *Perceptions of abuse*

Only a minority of respondents defined their experience of abuse as 'a crime'.

Defining partner abuse as 'a crime' was more common when:

- the abuse experienced was physical (31%) compared to psychological abuse (24%) and;
- when the victim was female in psychological abuse (36% compared to 10% for men) and physical abuse (48% compared to 8% of men).

Only just under half (48%) of those who reported having an experience of psychological or physical abuse at some point since they were 16 considered themselves to have been a victim of domestic abuse.

## **3.2 Forms of abuse experienced**

In the survey questionnaire, respondents are asked to identify which of a range of different abusive behaviours they have experienced. The behaviours presented to respondents include those that could be defined as 'psychological' abuse (such as emotional or financial abuse) and 'physical' abuse. It is this information that is summarised to establish that 14% of adults who stated they had a partner at some point since they were 16 (n=9,648) reported that they had experienced at least one incident of psychological or physical abuse in that time period (see **section 2.4** of this report). This section of the report examines the specific forms of abuse identified in more detail.

### **3.2.1 Psychological abuse**

Overall, 12% of respondents reported experiencing at least one incident of psychological abuse since the age of 16. The prevalence of psychological abuse varies by gender, with 16% of women reporting an experience of psychological abuse compared to 8% of men.

Table 3.1 below details the percentage of adults who have had a partner since they were 16 reporting an experience against each type of psychological abuse listed in the survey. The table shows that the most commonly experienced forms of psychological abuse are a partner behaving in a jealous or controlling way (8%) and

being repeatedly put down by a partner so that the individual felt worthless (7%). Four per cent of adults reported that a partner had threatened to hurt them, and 4% also stated a partner had stopped them from seeing friends and relatives.

**Table 3.1: Forms of psychological abuse experienced since age 16**  
SCJS 2012-13

Form of psychological abuse	% of adults experiencing this form of abuse
Behaved in a jealous or controlling way	8
Repeatedly put you down so that you felt worthless	7
Threatened to hurt you	4
Stopped you from seeing friends/ relatives	4
Threatened to/ attempted to/ actually hurt themselves to make you do something/ stop you doing something	2
Stopped you from having your fair share of household money/ taken money from you	2
Threatened you with a weapon (such as an ashtray or bottle)	2
Threatened to hurt your other/ previous partner	2
Threatened to kill/ attempt to kill themselves to make you do something/ stop you from doing something	2
Threatened to kill you	2
Threatened to hurt someone/ other living thing close to you (e.g. children, other family, friends or pets)	2
Forced you to view material which you considered to be pornography	*

*Base: Adults who have had a partner since the age of 16 (9,648)*

*Variable name: DA\_1i*

### 3.2.2 Physical abuse

Overall, 9% of adults reported experiencing at least one incident of physical abuse since the age 16. The prevalence of physical abuse also varies by gender, with 12% of women reporting an experience of physical abuse compared to 6% of men.

**Table 3.2** below details the percentage of adults who have had a partner since they were 16 reporting an experience against each type of physical abuse listed in the survey. The table shows that the most commonly experienced forms of physical abuse are having a partner kick, bite or hit you (5%), having a partner throw something at you with the intention to cause harm (5%) and being pushed or held down by a partner (5%).

**Table 3.2: Forms of physical abuse experienced since age 16**  
SCJS 2012-13

Form of physical abuse	% of adults experiencing this form of abuse
Kicked, bitten or hit you	5
Thrown something at you with the intention of causing harm <sup>4</sup>	5
Pushed you or held you down	5
Used a weapon against you	2
Choked or tried to strangle/ smother you	2
Forced/ tried to force you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to	2
Forced you/ tried to force you to take part in another sexual activity when you did not want to	1

*Base: Adults who have had a partner since the age of 16 (9,648)*

*Variable name: DA\_1iii*

### **3.2.3 Experiencing multiple forms of abuse**

The survey data highlights that adults are likely to experience more than one form of abusive behaviour since age 16. On average, adults were likely to have experienced around 3 different forms of psychological abuse, and between 2 and 3 forms of physical abuse. These figures varied for men and women:

- Men, on average, were likely to experience around 2 forms of psychological abuse and between 1 and 2 forms of physical abuse;
- Women, on average, were likely to experience between 3 and 4 forms of psychological abuse and between 2 and 3 forms of physical abuse.

### **3.2.4 Differences between men and women's experiences**

The data presented above indicates that there are differences in the experiences of men and women. Comparing the types of abuse reported by adults who had experienced any form of partner abuse since they were 16 by gender further illustrates these differences<sup>5</sup>.

**Figure 3.1** below considers only those adults who had experienced partner abuse since they were 16. It is shown that, while men who have experienced partner abuse do report experiences of psychological abuse, women are more likely to report experiences across all forms of psychological abuse. In some instances the difference in proportions of men and women stating they had experienced the behaviour in question is large. For example, women were significantly ( $p < 0.001$ ) more likely to report:

- having a partner repeatedly put them down (56% compared to 28% of men);
- having a partner behave in a jealous or controlling way towards them (59% compared to 47% of men);
- having a partner threaten to hurt them (37% compared to 17% of men);

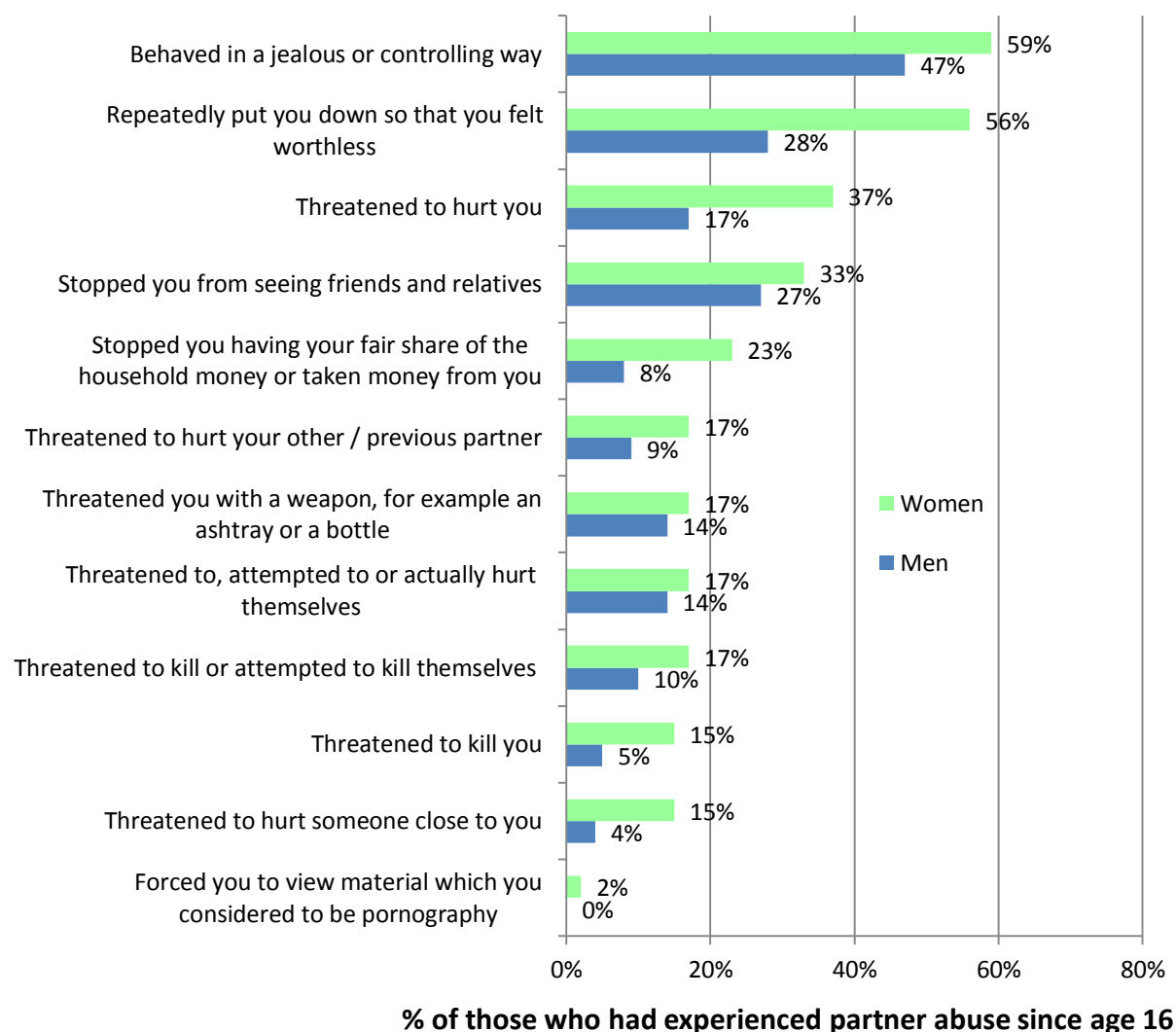
<sup>4</sup> In 2012-13 the wording of this question was changed from 'Thrown something at you' to 'Thrown something at you with the intention of causing harm'. Thus, responses to this particular question are not directly comparable with previous survey years.

<sup>5</sup> Further tables are provided in Annex 1. These detail experience as broken down by other demographic characteristics such as age.

- having a partner withhold money from them (23% compared to 8% men);
- having a partner threaten to kill them (15% compared to 5% men);
- having a partner threaten to hurt someone close to them (15% compared to 4% men);
- or having a partner threaten to hurt their other/ previous partner (17% compared to 9% men)

In other instances the differences in proportions of women and men reporting experiences of psychological abuse is less pronounced and no statistically significant associations are found. For example, similar proportions of women and men report that a partner has threatened them with a weapon (17% women and 14% men) or that a partner has threatened to, or actually, hurt themselves as a means of exerting control (17% women and 14% men):

**Figure 3.1: Forms of psychological abuse reported by men and women**  
SCJS 2012-13



*Base: Adults experiencing at least one type of partner abuse (psychological or physical) since age 16 (adults 1,429; women 1,035; men 394)*  
Variable name: DA\_1i

**Figure 3.2** below illustrates the differences in proportions of women and men who have experienced partner abuse reporting experiences of the different forms of physical abuse. It can be seen that certain forms of physical abuse appear to be experienced in near equal proportions by women and men, such as:

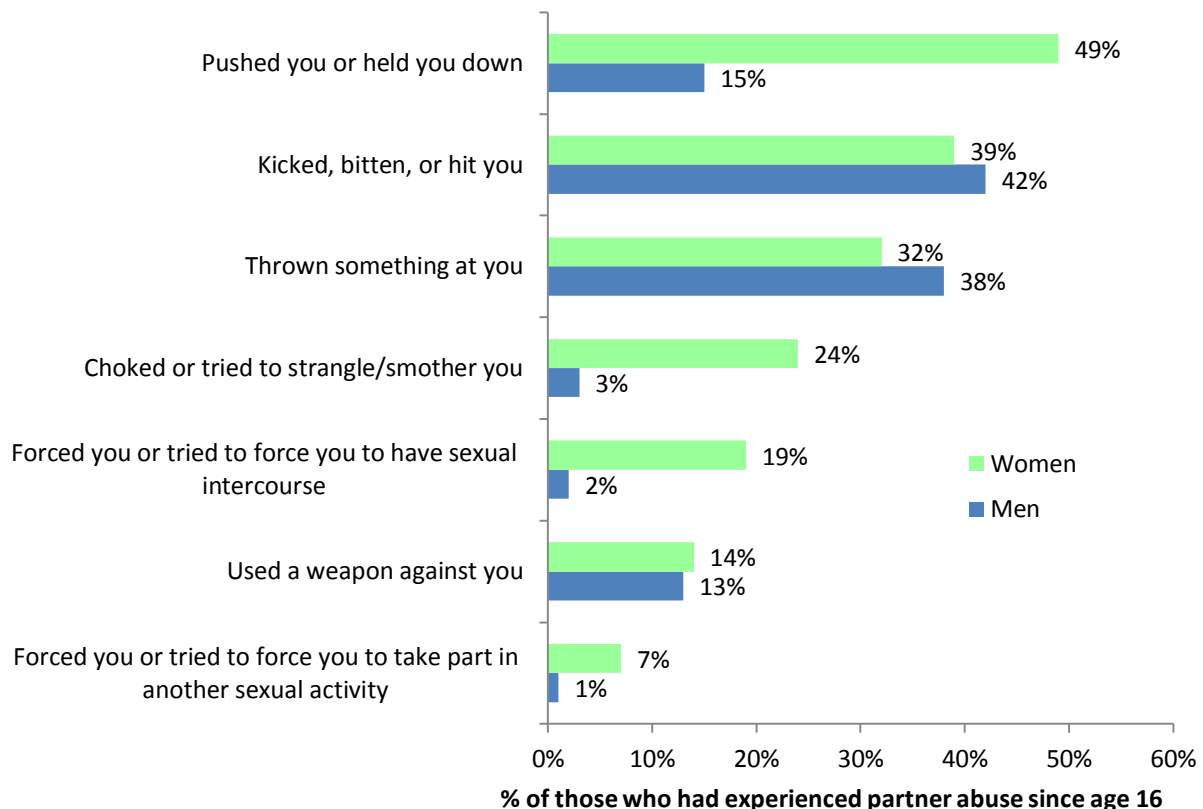
- being kicked, bitten or hit (39% women and 42% men);
- having a partner throw something at you (32% women and 38% men);
- a weapon being used against you by a partner (14% women and 13% men).

However, other forms of physical abuse are experienced in substantially higher proportions by female victims. For example, women were significantly ( $p < 0.001$ ) more likely to report:

- being pushed or held down by their partner (49% compared to 15% men);

- having a partner choke or attempt to strangle/ smother them (24% compared to 3% men);
- having a partner force, or try to force, them to have sexual intercourse (19% compared to 2% men);
- or having a partner force, or try to force, them to take part in another sexual activity (7% compared to 1% men).

**Figure 3.2: Forms of physical abuse reported by men and women**  
SCJS 2012-13



*Base: Adults experiencing at least one type of partner abuse (psychological or physical) since age 16 (adults 1,429; women 1,035; men 394)*

*Variable name: DA\_1iii*

### 3.3 Partner and relationship details

Seventy per cent of adults who had experienced any form of partner abuse since the age of 16 (n=1,429) reported having only one abusive partner. Thirteen per cent reported that they had two abusive partners since they were 16, and 9% reported having had three or more abusive partners in the same time frame. The remaining respondents did not know or did not wish to answer.

Thirty eight per cent of those who had experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months reported that they were living with the abusive partner at the time of the most recent incident. While it is not possible to fully determine whether respondents were reporting abuse perpetrated by current or ex-partners, of those respondents who were living with the abusive partner at the time of the most recent incident (n=89), 50% stated that they were still living with the abusive partner at the time they were interviewed, suggesting that for this group, the abuse reported relates to their current relationship/ partner.

### **3.3.1 Gender and sexual orientation**

The survey asks respondents to identify the gender of the partner who perpetrated the most recent incident of abuse within the last 12 months, and the gender of any abusive partners since they were 16. In 53% of cases, the abusive partner who perpetrated the most recent incident of abuse was identified as male, compared with 42% of cases where the partner was female. Looking at gender of any abusive partner since the age of 16, 65% of adults identified that the partner/s was male, and 32% stated the partner/s was female. One per cent stated that they had both male and female abusive partners since they were 16.

The survey asks respondents to identify their sexual orientation. Ninety six per cent of adults who had experienced partner abuse since they were 16 identified themselves as heterosexual, 3% stated they were gay or lesbian, and 2% stated they were bisexual (n=1,429). It can be assumed that in the majority of cases, adults who had experienced partner abuse since they were 16 were in heterosexual relationships and of the opposite gender to their abusive partners.

This is confirmed when comparing the gender of partner abuse victims against the reported gender of the abusive partner. Ninety per cent of men reported that their abusive partner/s since they were 16 were female, 6.5% said the abusive partner was male and less than 1% said the abusive partners were male and female. Ninety-four per cent of women reported that their abusive partner/s since they were 16 were male, 2% said the abusive partner was female and less than 1% said the abusive partner was both male and female. A similar pattern is observed with regard to the partner who perpetrated the most recent incident of abuse, with 89% of men identifying a female abusive partner and 90% of women identifying a male abusive partner.

## **3.4 Presence of children**

It is known that partner abuse can impact on children and young people, who may be directly or indirectly harmed through the abuse perpetrated against their parent/s. The survey examines the potential impact of abuse on children by asking respondents who have experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months whether:

- they had children living with them at the time of the most recent incident of abuse;
- the children were present during the incident;
- the children witnessed or were involved in the incident.

If children were present, the survey also asks whether they were hurt or injured in any way. For respondents who experienced more than one incident of partner abuse in the last 12 months, questions about the presence of children during the other incidents are also posed.

Around one third of those experiencing partner abuse within the last 12 months (33%, n=234) reported that they had children living in their household when the most recent incident took place. This pattern varies by gender and age ( $p \leq 0.001$ ). Forty three per cent of women, compared to 20% of men, report children living in their household. Within the youngest age bracket (16 to 24 years), only 10% of partner abuse victims report children living in their households. This compares to 38% of 25

to 34 year olds, 46% of 35 to 44 year olds, 46% of 45 to 54 year olds and 45% of 55 to 64 year olds. Only 10% of victims in the oldest age bracket (65+ years) report having children living in their household.

Of those who experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months and who had children living in their household, 67% report that the children were present (in or around the house or close by) during the most recent incident.

In 72% of cases where children were present during the most recent incident, the children saw or heard what happened. Within this group, 13% of incidents resulted in the children becoming involved in the incident and 7% resulted in the children being hurt or injured<sup>6</sup>.

Looking to other incidents of abuse taking place within the last 12 months, 36% of adults reported that children were present at all or some of the previous incidents.

### **3.5 Impact of abuse**

Respondents who had experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months were asked about the effect the most recent (or only) incident on them. Respondents were presented with a range of options, including those that could be defined as 'psychological' effects and 'physical' effects.

Psychological effects were more commonly reported overall than physical. Sixty one per cent of respondents identified at least one psychological effect, compared to 45% reporting at least one physical effect.

**Figure 3.3** below shows the psychological effects recorded in the survey in more detail. The results are shown for all adults experiencing partner abuse within the last 12 months, and then broken down by gender to illustrate some of the differences in the proportion of men and women reporting each type of effect.

Overall it can be seen that the most commonly reported psychological effects amongst all adults are psychological and emotional problems, such as depression and difficulty sleeping, (39%), a loss of trust in other people and difficulty in other relationships (20%), and fear, anxiety and panic attacks (19%). Eleven per cent also report isolation from family or friends, and 10% report starting to do things that 'were not good for me' in order to cope.

Comparing the proportions of men and women reporting each type of psychological effect, it can be seen that women are much more likely than men to report experiencing the most commonly cited effects. For example:

- 47% of women reported experiencing psychological or emotional problems, compared to 29% of men (only significant at the  $p \leq 0.005$  level);
- 26% of women report a loss of trust in other people and difficulty in their other relationships compared to 12% of men (not statistically significant);
- 27% of women report experiencing fear, anxiety and panic attacks compared to 11% of men (significant at the  $p \leq 0.001$  level).

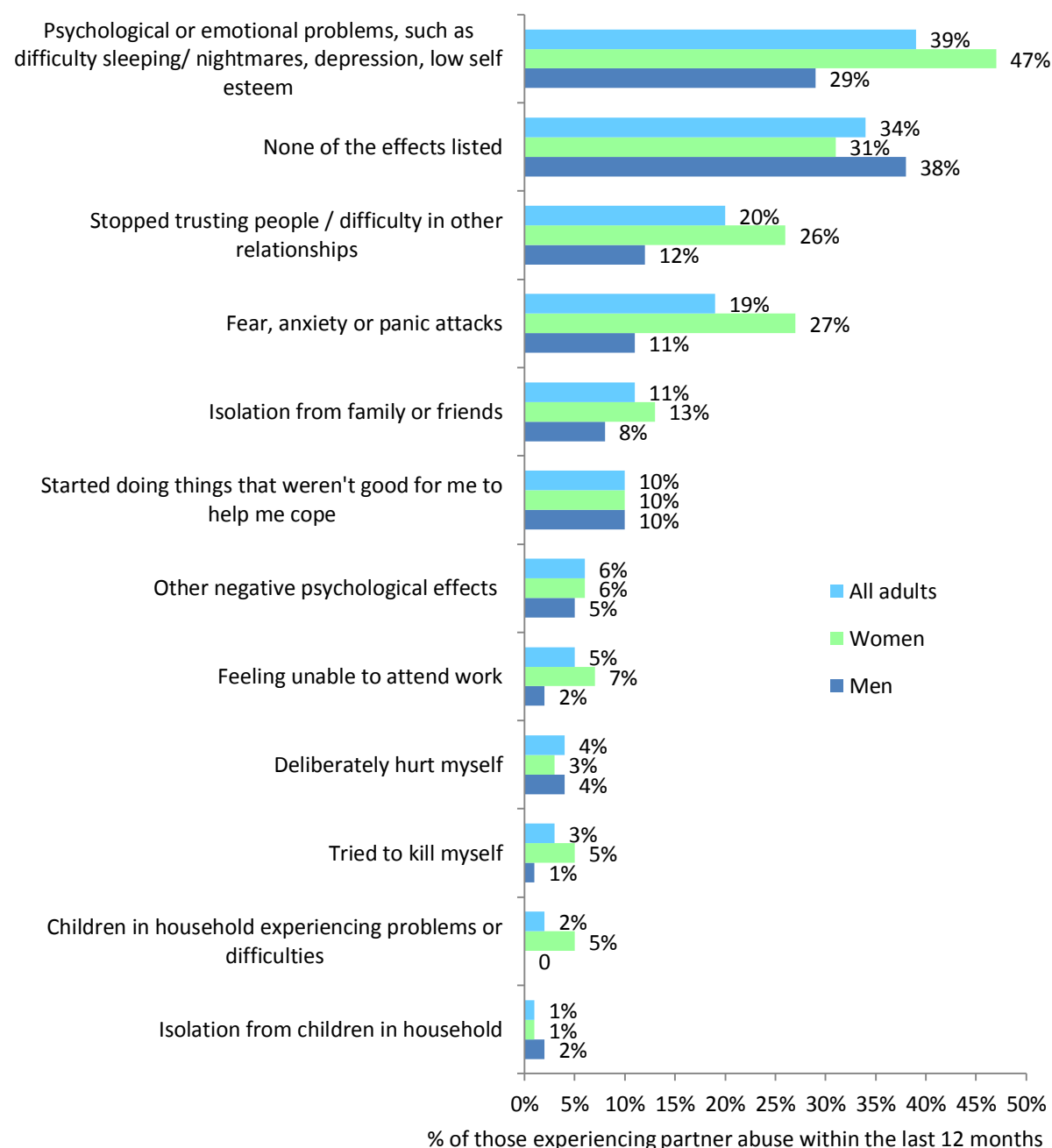
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<sup>6</sup> The base size for these percentages is only 42, so these findings should be used only with appropriate caution.



Women are also more likely to report isolation from family or friends (13% compared to 8% men) but the difference is smaller (and not statistically significant) in this case.

**Figure 3.3: Reported psychological effects of most recent/ only incident of partner abuse within the last 12 months**  
SCJS 2012-13



*Base: Adults who had experienced partner abuse (psychological or physical) within the last 12 months (all adults 234; women 150; men 84)*  
*Variable name: DA\_9*

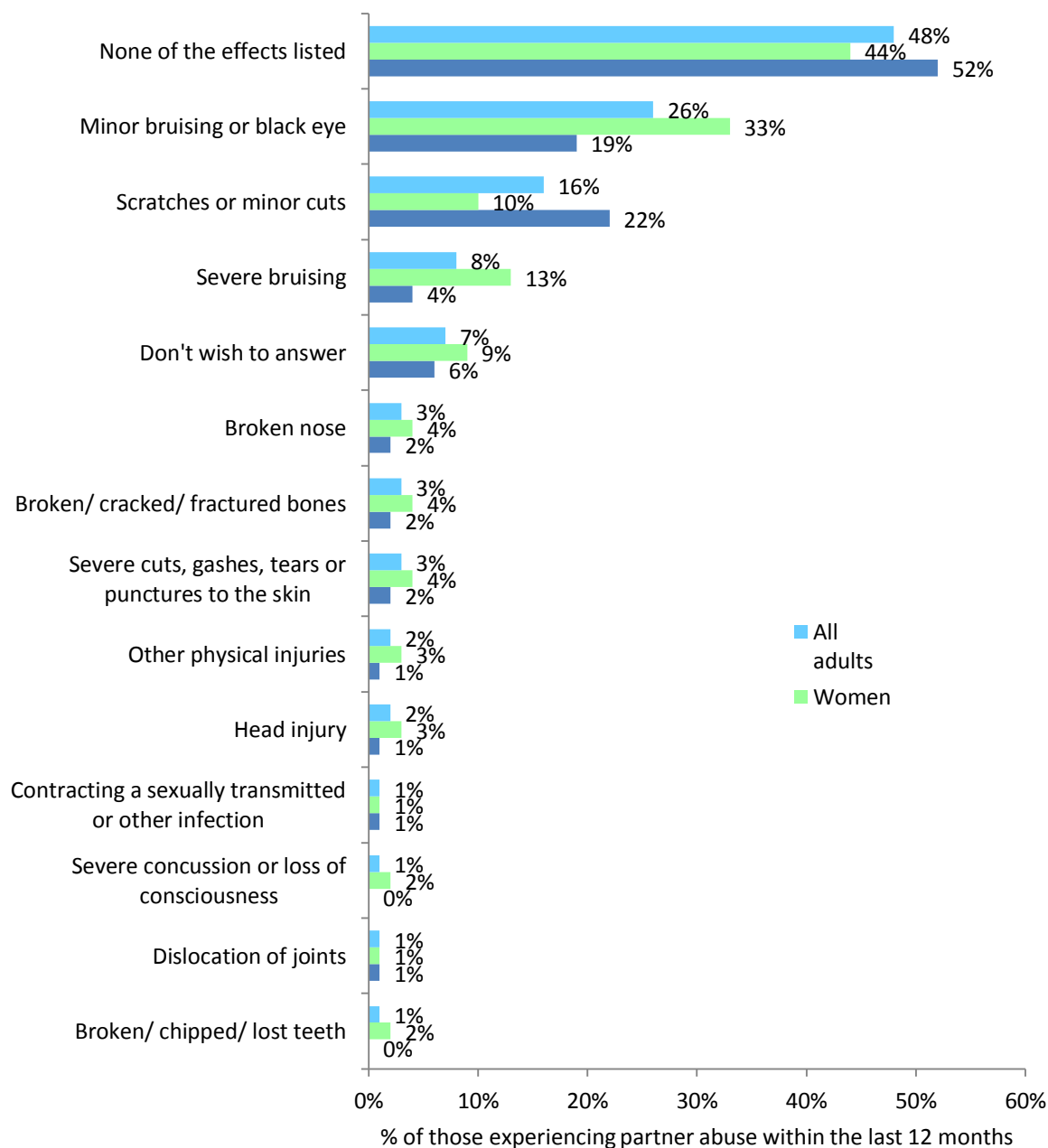
**Figure 3.4** below shows the physical effects recorded in the survey in more detail. The results are shown for all adults experiencing partner abuse within the last 12 months, and then broken down by gender to illustrate some of the differences in the proportion of men and women reporting each type of effect.

Overall, the most commonly experienced physical effects of abuse are minor bruising or black eyes (26% of adults), scratches or minor cuts (16%) and severe bruising (8%). Once again, there are differences in the proportions of men and women reporting particular effects in the survey, although none of the differences observed were found to be statistically significant ( $p \leq 0.001$ ). For example:

- 33% of women report experiencing minor bruising or black eyes following the most recent incident, compared to 19% of men;
- 13% of women report severe bruising, compared to 4% of men.

However, men are more likely to report experiencing scratches or minor cuts than women (22% compared to 10% women).

**Figure 3.4: Reported physical effects of most recent/ only incident of partner abuse within the last 12 months**  
SCJS 2012-13



*Base: Adults who had experienced partner abuse (psychological or physical) within the last 12 months (all adults 234; women 150; men 84)*

*Variable name: DA\_8*

### **3.5.1 Multiple impacts**

Responses to the survey questions on effects of the most recent incident of abuse can be counted to establish whether respondents are reporting single or multiple effects. Fifty five per cent of respondents who experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months and reported that the most recent incident had some impact on them (n=152) stated that the most recent incident of abuse resulted in a single psychological effect. Seventeen per cent reported two psychological effects, and

15% reported three. Seven per cent reported four psychological effects and the remainder (6%) reported five or more.

Respondents were less likely to experience multiple physical effects. The majority of respondents (68%, n=120) reporting a physical effect of the most recent incident of abuse stated that they only experienced a single physical effect. Twenty five per cent reported two physical effects, and 8% reported three or more physical effects.

The pattern of multiple effects varies by gender. **Table 3.3** shows that, with regard to psychological effects, the majority of men (79%) report a single psychological effect, compared to 36% of women. Women are much more likely to report multiple effects, with 20% reporting four or more psychological effects compared to only 5% of men (p=0.000).

**Table 3.3: Count of psychological effects by gender**  
SCJS 2012-13

<i>Number of psychological effects reported</i>	<i>% of men</i>	<i>% of women</i>
One	79	36
Two	3	27
Three	14	17
Four	3	10
Five	2	4
Six	0	6
<b>Base</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>150</b>

*Base: Adults who had experienced partner abuse (psychological or physical) within the last 12 months (all adults 234; women 150; men 84)*

*Variable names: DA\_9\_01 - 12*

Similarly, **table 3.4** shows that 10% of women report three or more physical effects resulting from the most recent incident of abuse, compared to 2% of men. However, this difference is not statistically significant at the p≤0.001 level.

**Table 3.4: Count of physical effects by gender**  
SCJS 2012-13

<i>Number of physical effects reported</i>	<i>% of men</i>	<i>% of women</i>
One	74	63
Two	25	25
Three	2	2
Four	0	3
Five	0	5
Six	0	1
<b>Base</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>150</b>

*Base: Adults who had experienced partner abuse (psychological or physical) within the last 12 months (all adults 234; women 150; men 84)*

### **3.5.2 Effects of previous incidents**

Respondents who experienced more than one incident of partner abuse within the last 12 months were also asked a shorter question about whether any previous incident of abuse had any physical impact on them. In total, 33% reported

experiencing some degree of physical impact, ranging from minor impacts (25%), serious impacts where medical treatment was sought (2%), serious impacts where treatment was not received (5%) and pregnancy (1%).

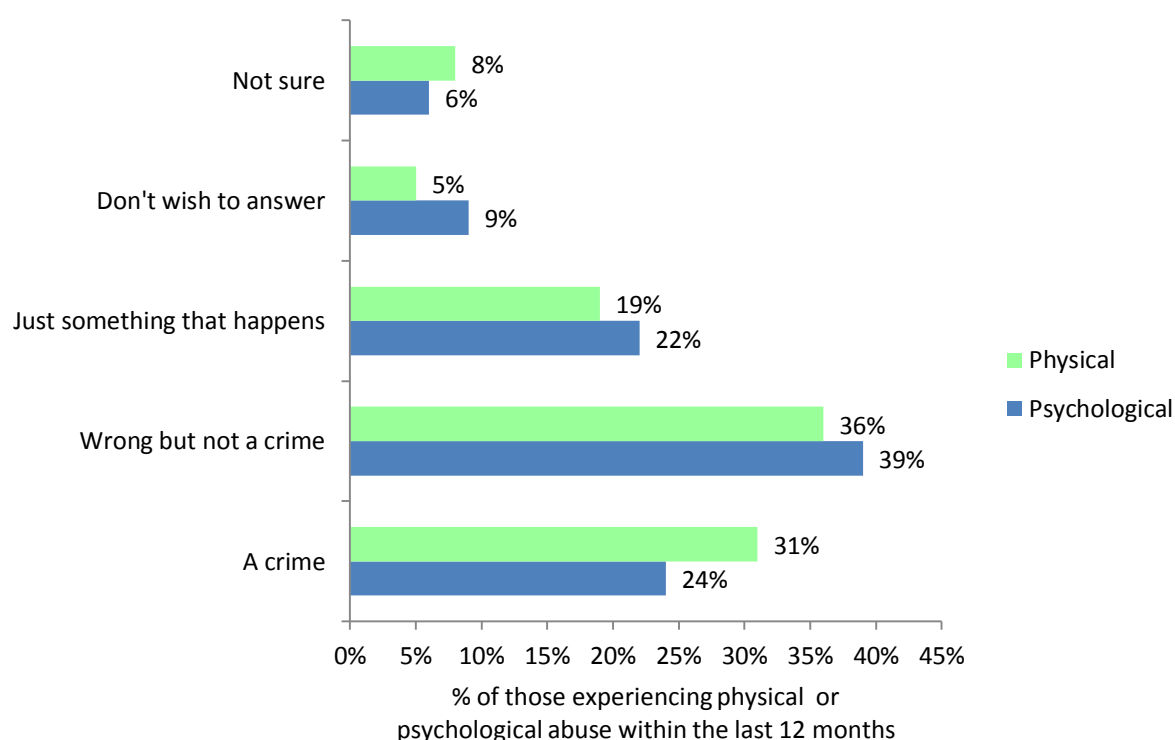
### 3.6 Perceptions of abuse

Respondents are asked a series of questions in the survey about how they perceive the abuse that they have experienced. Those who experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months are asked whether they believe that the psychological and/ or physical abuse that they reported in the survey was a crime, and all respondents who reported having a partner at some point since they were 16 are asked a final question on whether they feel they have been a victim of domestic abuse<sup>7</sup>.

#### 3.6.1 Perceptions of abuse as crime

**Figure 3.5** below compares respondents' perceptions of their experiences of the most recent incident of psychological and/ or physical abuse. Respondents are more likely to define their experiences of physical abuse as 'a crime' (31% compared to 24% of those experiencing psychological abuse).

**Figure 3.5: Perceptions of psychological and physical abuse**  
SCJS 2012-13



*Base: Adults experiencing psychological and/or physical abuse within the last 12 months (psychological 198; physical 129)*  
*Variable names: DA\_18; DA\_19*

Once again, there are significant ( $p=0.000$ ) differences in the responses provided by men and women. Women are more likely to define their experiences as 'crime' than men. Thirty six per cent of women defined their most recent experience of

<sup>7</sup> The term domestic abuse is not introduced to respondents prior to the final question being asked. It is not defined to respondents, so all answers are based on respondents' own understanding of the term.

psychological abuse as a crime, compared to 10% of men, and 48% of women defined their most recent experience of physical abuse as a crime, compared to 8% of men.

Men were more likely than women to state that their most recent experience was 'just something that happens'. Thirty two per cent of men defined their most recent experience of psychological abuse in this way, compared to 13% of women, and 38% of men defined their most recent experience of physical abuse in the same way, compared to 6% of women.

### **3.6.2 Perceived victim of domestic abuse**

Eight per cent of those adults who have had a partner at some point since they were 16 (n=9,648) feel that they have ever been a victim of domestic abuse. This is lower than the proportion of adults who report an experience of partner abuse over the same time frame in the survey (14%). This perception also varies by gender, with women being more likely than men to believe that they had been a victim of domestic abuse (12% compared to 3% men,  $p=0.000$ ).

Interestingly, 17% of those who define themselves as having been a victim of domestic abuse did not report an experience of abuse within the partner abuse section of the self-completion questionnaire. It is not possible to ascertain why these individuals responded in the way they did from the data drawn on for this report, but it may be the case that there is an overlap with the experiences of stalking and harassment and sexual victimisation that other elements of the self-completion questionnaire address. Analysis drawing on the full self-completion dataset would allow a useful investigation of this possibility. If it were not the case, it suggests that individuals who have experienced abuse may not necessarily wish to recount their experiences for research purposes, or that the abuse as defined in the survey did not match the definition of abuse that these individuals held.

Only 48% of those who reported having an experience of psychological or physical abuse at some point since they were 16 (n=1,429) considered themselves to have been a victim of domestic abuse.

## 4. REPORTING OF PARTNER ABUSE TO POLICE AND OTHERS

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter examines victim reporting behaviour and broader police awareness of victim experience. The following topics are covered:

- Whether adults who have experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months have told anyone about their most recent, and other, incidents of abuse;
- Whether the police came to know about the most recent, or other, incidents of abuse;
- Why the police were not made aware about the most recent incident of abuse, and;
- How satisfied respondents were with the police in dealing with the abuse

### Chapter Findings

Some of those who experience partner abuse do tell others about their abuse, and the likelihood of telling someone varies by gender:

- 64% of those who had experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months had told at least one person or organisation about their most recent (or only) experience of abuse;
- 34% of those experiencing partner abuse within the last 12 months had not told anyone about any of the incidents they had experienced;
- Men were more likely to not tell anyone than women (45% compared to 23%);
- Respondents were more likely to have personally told individuals from their informal networks, i.e. friends (35%) and relatives (27%), about their abuse than to have told professionals such as doctors (10%) and police (13%).

A minority of respondents stated that the police had come to know about their experiences, and the likelihood of the police being made aware of abuse appears to vary by gender:

- 21% of those who had experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months stated that the police came to know about the most recent (or only) incident;
- 83% of those who stated the police knew about the most recent incident stated that the police also knew about other previous incidents, suggesting repeated contact between the police and a small group of those experiencing partner abuse;
- Women were more likely than men to state the police came to know about the most recent and any other incidents of partner abuse within the last 12 months (32% of women compared to 9% of men and 31% of women and 10% of men respectively).

## 4.2 Who do victims tell about their abuse?

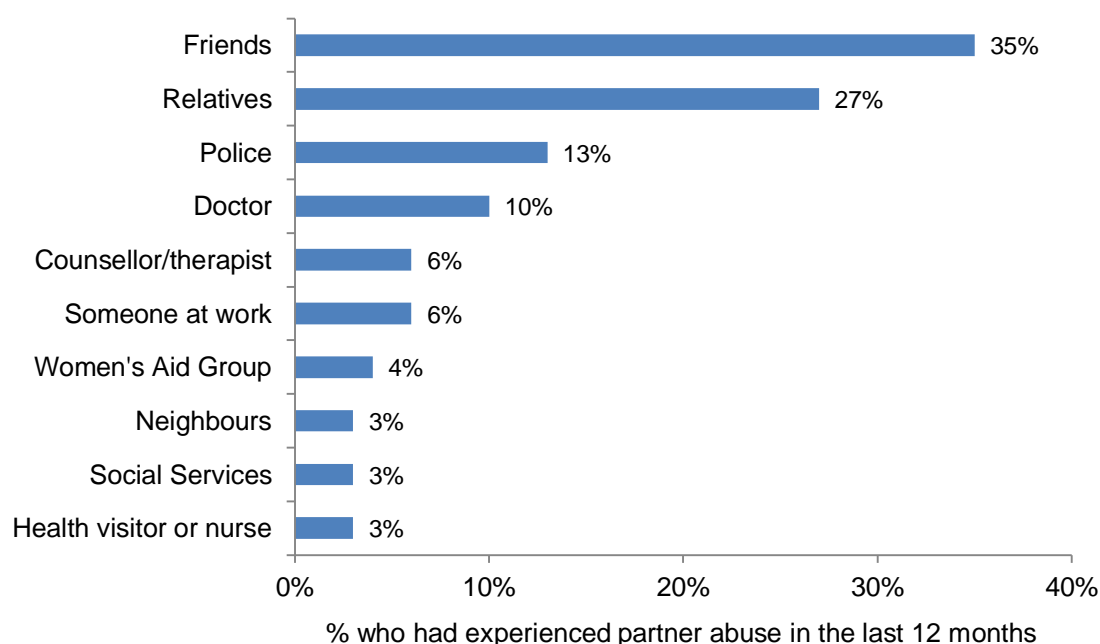
### 4.2.1 Most recent incident

Respondents who had experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months were asked who they told about the most recent (or only) incident. Almost two thirds of this group (64%, n=234) had told at least one person or organisation about the most recent incident.

Respondents were most likely to have told friends (35%) and relatives (27%) about their most recent incident. Respondents also told other adults, including someone at work (6%) and neighbours (3%).

Thirteen per cent of respondents experiencing partner abuse within the last 12 months told the police about their most recent incident. Smaller proportions of respondents stated that they told other professionals, including their doctor (10%), their counsellor or therapist (6%), a Women's Aid Group (4%), Victim Support Scotland (2%), a mental health or addiction service (2%), a legal professional (2%) and the Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (1%).

**Figure 4.1: People or organisations told about the most recent incident of partner abuse in the last 12 months<sup>8</sup>**  
SCJS 2012-13



*Base: All adults who had experienced partner abuse (psychological or physical) in the last 12 months (234)*

*Variable name: DA\_10*

<sup>8</sup> All other people or organisations were mentioned by fewer than 3% of those who had experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months and are not shown in Figure 4.1.



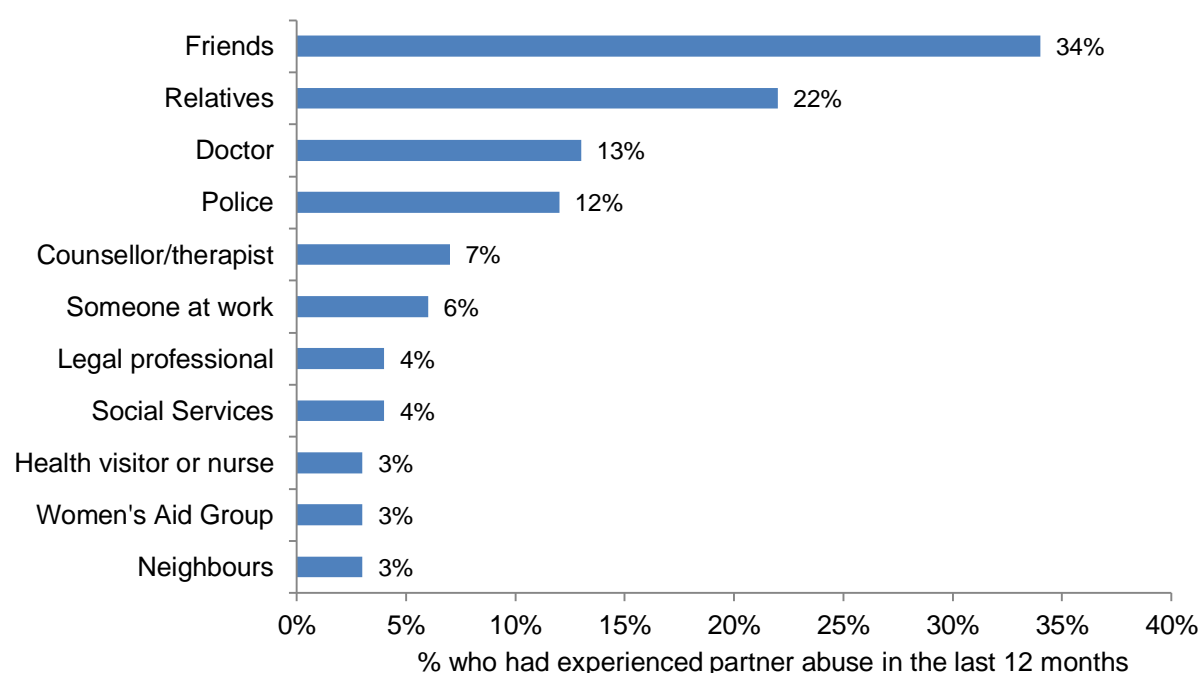
### 4.2.2 Any other incidents

Respondents who had experienced more than one incident of partner abuse were also asked who they had told about any other incidents of partner abuse that took place within the last 12 months. The overall response to this question was very similar to that relating to the most recent incident. Just over two thirds of those experiencing more than one incident of abuse within the last 12 months (66%, n=213) had told at least one other person or organisation about other incidents of abuse they had experienced.

Once again, respondents were most likely to have told friends (34%) and relatives (22%), followed by doctors (13%) and the police (12%).

**Figure 4.2: People or organisations told about any other incident of partner abuse in the last 12 months<sup>9</sup>**

SCJS 2012-13



*Base: Adults experiencing more than one incident of partner abuse (psychological or physical) in the last 12 months (213)*

*Variable name: DA\_10ANY*

Ninety five per cent of those who had told someone about their most recent incident of abuse, reported that they also told someone about previous incidents of abuse (n=142). Thus, respondents experiencing more than one incident of partner abuse within the last 12 months who had told someone about any previous incidents, were the most likely to have told someone about their most recent incident of abuse. Overall, 34% of respondents who had experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months (n=234) did not tell any other person or organisation about *any* incidents of abuse. Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to have not told anyone about the abuse they had experienced (p=0.000). Forty five per cent of men

<sup>9</sup> All other people or organisations were mentioned by fewer than 3% of those who had experienced more than one incident of partner abuse within the last 12 months and are not shown in Figure 4.2.

had not told anyone about any incidents of abuse experienced within the last 12 months, compared to 23% of women.

## 4.3 Reporting to the police

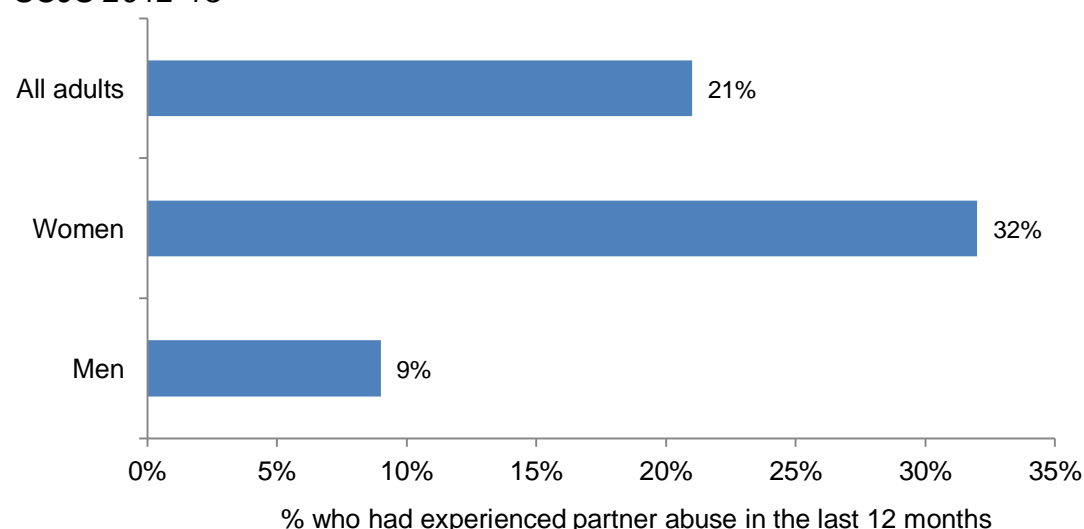
### 4.3.1 Most recent incident

Respondents are asked separately whether or not the police came to know about their most recent, and any other, incident of partner abuse experienced within the last 12 months. This allows the survey to capture whether the police came to know about incidents regardless of whether the victim reported the incident; someone else reported the incident on behalf of the victim; the police witnessed the incident directly; or the police found out in some other way.

Twenty one per cent of respondents who experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months stated that the police did come to know about the most recent incident (n=234).

Police awareness of the most recent incident of partner abuse was higher amongst female respondents than male (p=0.000), as **figure 4.3** shows:

**Figure 4.3: Whether police came to know about the most recent/ only incident of partner abuse experienced within the last 12 months**  
SCJS 2012-13



*Base: All adults who had experienced partner abuse (psychological or physical) in the last 12 months (234; women 150, men 84)*

*Variable name: DA\_11*

Where the police had come to know about respondents' most recent incident of partner abuse within the last 12 months, respondents were asked whether the incident had been reported as a crime. Seventy one per cent (n=62) said that the incident had been reported as a crime.

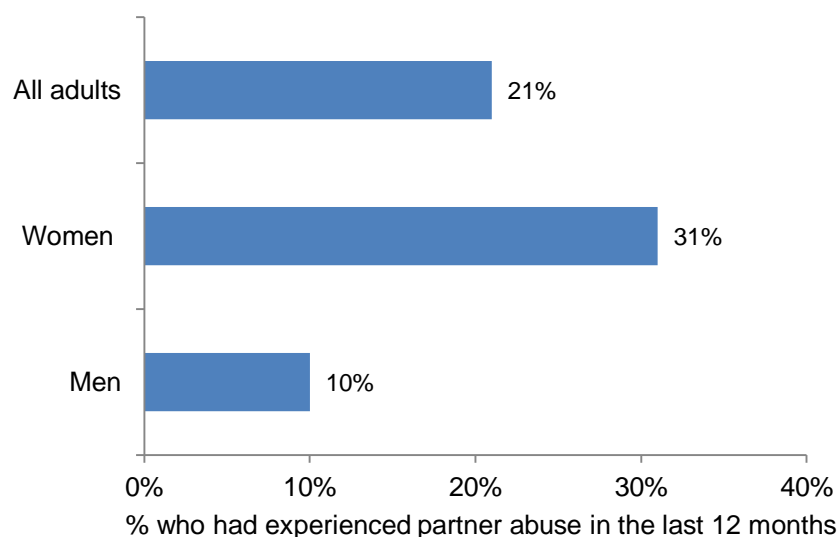
### 4.3.2 Any other incidents

Twenty one per cent of respondents who experienced more than one incident of partner abuse within the last 12 months stated that the police came to know about all or some of the other incidents (n=213).

**Figure 4.4** below shows similar differences between women and men in levels of police awareness are observed when examining whether the police came to know about any previous incidents of partner abuse within the last 12 months. However, these differences are not statistically significant:

**Figure 4.4: Whether police came to about all or some of the other incidents of partner abuse experienced within the last 12 months**

SCJS 2012-13



*Base: All adults who had experienced more than one incident of partner abuse (psychological or physical) in the last 12 months (213; women 134, men 79)*

*Variable name: DA\_11ANY*

Eighty three per cent (n=213) of those who had experienced more than one incident of partner abuse within the last 12 months and stated that the police had come to know about the most recent incident of abuse also stated that the police had come to know about all or some of their previous incidents.

#### 4.4 Reasons for not informing the police

Where the police were not informed about the most recent incident of partner abuse experienced within the last 12 months, respondents are asked to give the reasons why. The most common reasons given were:

- 'it was too trivial/ not worth reporting' (27%)
- 'it was a private, personal or family matter' (26%)
- 'I/we dealt with the matter myself/ourselves' (25%) (n=160).

**Figure 4.5** below illustrates the range of reasons given by respondents:

**Figure 4.5: Most common reasons why the most recent/ only incident of partner abuse experienced in the last 12 months was not reported<sup>10</sup>**  
**SCJS 2012-13**



*Base: Adults experiencing partner abuse within the last 12 months where police did not come to know about the most recent/ only incident (160)*

*Variable name: DA\_11i*

## 4.5 Level of satisfaction with police

Where respondents who experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months stated that the police came to know about their most recent/ only incident, a follow up question asked about the extent of their satisfaction with how the police dealt with the matter. Thirty nine per cent of respondents (n=62) were very satisfied and 30% were quite satisfied<sup>11</sup>. Eighteen per cent reported being dissatisfied.

<sup>10</sup> Reasons mentioned by 2% or fewer of those who experienced partner abuse within the last 12 months where the police did not come to know about the most recent/ only incident are not shown

<sup>11</sup> The base size for responses to this question is low (62) and figures should be treated with caution.

## Annex 1: Data Tables – Experience of Partner Abuse

The following data tables provide data for some of the key measures of partner abuse. Notes on how to read and interpret these tables follow.

Notes:

1. 'Victim status' indicates whether a respondent was the victim of a crime as measured by the SCJS in 2012-13 (for further details of the crimes included in this measure, see Annex 3 of the Main Findings: Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2012-13 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/03/9823/14>)
2. 'Deprivation' is measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Breakdowns are for those living in the 15% most deprived areas and those living in the rest of Scotland. See the Scottish Government website for further information: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>.
3. Definitions for table column headings are provided in the notes following the respective tables.

**Table A1.1: % of adults who have had a partner since the age of 16 who have experienced partner abuse in that time period by demographic variables**  
**SCJS 2012-13**

	Experienced any psychological abuse	Experienced any physical abuse	Experienced any psychological or physical abuse	Experienced both psychological and physical abuse
<b>AGE</b>				
16 - 24	15%	8%	16%	6%
25 - 44	16%	12%	18%	10%
45 - 59	13%	11%	16%	9%
60+	5%	4%	6%	3%
<b>AGE/ GENDER</b>				
Male 16 - 24	12%	5%	13%	3%
Male 25 - 44	11%	9%	14%	6%
Male 45 - 59	7%	7%	10%	5%
Male 60+	3%	3%	4%	2%
Female 16 - 24	17%	10%	19%	8%
Female 25 - 44	21%	16%	23%	14%
Female 45 - 59	19%	15%	21%	13%
Female 60+	6%	6%	8%	4%
<b>VICTIM STATUS</b>				
Non Victim	10%	8%	12%	6%
Victim	20%	15%	23%	13%
<b>SIMD</b>				
15% most	17%	13%	19%	11%
Rest	11%	8%	13%	7%

*Base: Adults who have had a partner since the age of 16 (9,648)*

*Variable names: DA\_1i, DA1\_iii*

1. Partner abuse as measured by the SCJS 2012-13 is any psychological or physical abuse undertaken against a man or a women carried out by a male or female partner or ex-partner (including any boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, wife or civil partner)
2. Psychological abuse includes emotional, financial and other forms of psychological abuse (Table A1.5 shows the different forms of psychological abuse included in the survey questionnaire)
3. Physical partner abuse includes sexual and other forms of physical force or violence (Table A1.7 shows the different forms of physical abuse included in the survey questionnaire)
4. Experienced any psychological/ physical abuse means that a respondent had experienced at least one of the forms of psychological *or* at least one of the forms of physical partner abuse presented to respondents
5. Experienced both psychological and physical abuse means that a respondent has experienced at least one of the forms of psychological *and* at least one of the forms of physical partner abuse presented to respondents

**Table A1.2: % of adults who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the last 12 months who have experienced partner abuse in that time period by demographic variables**  
**SCJS 2012-13**

	Experienced any psychological abuse in last 12 months	Experienced any physical abuse in last 12 months	Experienced any psychological or physical abuse in last 12 months	Experienced both psychological and physical abuse in last 12 months
<b>AGE</b>				
16 - 24	5%	3%	6%	2%
25 - 44	3%	2%	4%	2%
45 - 59	1%	1%	2%	1%
60+	-	-	1%	-
<b>AGE/ GENDER</b>				
Male 16 - 24	6%	3%	7%	2%
Male 25 - 44	3%	2%	4%	1%
Male 45 - 59	1%	1%	1%	-
Male 60+	-	-	-	-
Female 16 - 24	5%	4%	6%	3%
Female 25 - 44	3%	2%	4%	2%
Female 45 - 59	2%	1%	2%	1%
Female 60+	1%	-	1%	-
<b>VICTIM STATUS</b>				
Non Victim	2%	1%	2%	1%
Victim	5%	3%	6%	2%
<b>SIMD</b>				
15% most	5%	3%	6%	2%
Rest	2%	1%	2%	1%

*Base: Adults who have had a partner or contact with an ex-partner in the last 12 months (7,180)*

*Variable names: DA\_1i, DA\_1iii*

1. Partner abuse as measured by the SCJS 2012-13 is any psychological or physical abuse undertaken against a man or a women carried out by a male or female partner or ex-partner (including any boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, wife or civil partner)
2. Psychological abuse includes emotional, financial and other forms of psychological abuse (Table A1.5 shows the different forms of psychological abuse included in the survey questionnaire)
3. Physical partner abuse includes sexual and other forms of physical force or violence (Table A1.7 shows the different forms of physical abuse included in the survey questionnaire)
4. Experienced any psychological/ physical abuse means that a respondent had experienced at least one of the forms of psychological or at least one of the forms of physical partner abuse presented to respondents

Experienced both psychological and physical abuse means that a respondent has experienced at least one of the forms of psychological *and* at least one of the forms of physical partner abuse presented to respondents

**Table A1.3: % of adults who had experienced each form of psychological abuse since the age of 16 by age and gender**  
*SCJS 2012-13*

	AGE					AGE/GENDER							
	All	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+	Male 16 - 24	Male 25 - 44	Male 45 - 59	Male 60+	Female 16 - 24	Female 25 - 44	Female 45 - 59	Female 60+
Behaved in a jealous or controlling way	55%	64%	60%	50%	38%	63%	48%	39%	32%	65%	66%	55%	40%
Repeatedly put you down so that you felt worthless	47%	40%	48%	49%	45%	21%	31%	31%	23%	52%	58%	57%	54%
Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	31%	37%	33%	29%	20%	31%	28%	26%	15%	40%	35%	30%	22%
Threatened to hurt you	30%	19%	32%	32%	34%	8%	20%	14%	30%	26%	39%	40%	35%
Stopped you having your fair share of the household money or taken money from you	18%	9%	17%	23%	20%	4%	8%	10%	6%	12%	22%	28%	26%
Threatened to, attempted to or actually hurt themselves as a way of making you do something or stopping you from doing something	16%	21%	17%	14%	11%	14%	16%	9%	14%	26%	17%	16%	10%

**TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...**



**Table A1.3: (Continued)**

	AGE					AGE/GENDER							
	All	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+	Male 16 - 24	Male 25 - 44	Male 45 - 59	Male 60+	Female 16 - 24	Female 25 - 44	Female 45 - 59	Female 60+
Threatened to hurt your other / previous partner	14%	11%	18%	13%	8%	6%	10%	12%	5%	14%	23%	14%	8%
Threatened to kill you	12%	4%	11%	16%	12%	3%	4%	5%	9%	4%	15%	21%	13%
Threatened to hurt someone close to you, such as your children, family members, friends or pets	11%	5%	14%	11%	9%	2%	4%	2%	7%	6%	19%	15%	9%
Forced you to view material which you considered to be pornography	1%	-	1%	2%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	1%	2%	3%

*Base: Adults who had experienced partner abuse since the age of 16 (1,429)*

*Variable name: DA\_1i*

**Table A1.4: % of adults who had experienced each form of psychological abuse since the age of 16 by victim status and area deprivation**  
**SCJS 2012-13**

	All	VICTIM STATUS		SIMD	
		Non Victim	Victim	15% most	Rest
Behaved in a jealous or controlling way	55%	54%	57%	54%	55%
Repeatedly put you down so that you felt worthless	47%	46%	48%	47%	47%
Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	31%	28%	38%	35%	29%
Threatened to hurt you	30%	30%	31%	34%	30%
Stopped you having your fair share of the household money or taken money from you	18%	19%	15%	20%	17%
Threatened to, attempted to or actually hurt themselves as a way of making you do something or stopping you from doing something	16%	15%	19%	19%	15%
Threatened you with a weapon, for example an ashtray or a bottle	16%	16%	15%	18%	15%
Threatened to kill or attempted to kill themselves as a way of making you do something or stopping you from doing something	14%	14%	17%	14%	15%
Threatened to hurt your other / previous partner	14%	13%	18%	16%	14%
Threatened to kill you	12%	12%	11%	16%	10%
Threatened to hurt someone close to you, such as your children, family members, friends or pets	11%	11%	11%	15%	10%
Forced you to view material which you considered to be pornography	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

*Base: Adults who had experienced partner abuse since age 16 (1,429)*

*Variable name: DA\_1i*

**Table A1.5: % of adults who had experienced each form of physical abuse since the age of 16 by age and gender**  
**SCJS 2012-13**

	AGE					AGE/GENDER							
	All	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+	Male 16 - 24	Male 25 - 44	Male 45 - 59	Male 60+	Female 16 - 24	Female 25 - 44	Female 45 - 59	Female 60+
Kicked, bitten, or hit you	40%	25%	42%	43%	42%	25%	45%	47%	40%	26%	40%	41%	43%
Pushed you or held you down	37%	35%	38%	41%	29%	14%	18%	14%	5%	48%	49%	53%	38%
Thrown something at you	34%	24%	37%	34%	33%	17%	40%	42%	53%	29%	35%	31%	25%
Choked or tried to strangle/smother you	17%	8%	18%	19%	17%	4%	3%	2%	4%	10%	27%	27%	22%
Used a weapon against you	14%	9%	15%	14%	19%	10%	12%	14%	25%	8%	16%	14%	17%
Forced you or tried to force you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to	13%	7%	11%	19%	13%	4%	1%	1%	3%	9%	16%	27%	18%
Forced you or tried to force you to take part in another sexual activity when you did not want to	5%	5%	4%	6%	5%	2%	-	1%	4%	6%	7%	9%	6%

*Base: Adults who had experienced partner abuse since the age of 16 (1,429)*

*Variable name: DA\_1iii*

**Table A1.6: % of adults who had experienced each form of physical abuse since the age of 16 by victim status and area deprivation**  
**SCJS 2012-13**

	All	VICTIM STATUS		SIMD	
		Non Victim	Victim	15% most	Rest
Kicked, bitten, or hit you	40%	39%	40%	42%	39%
Pushed you or held you down	37%	35%	42%	35%	38%
Thrown something at you	34%	31%	41%	33%	34%
Choked or tried to strangle/smother you	17%	16%	18%	18%	17%
Used a weapon against you	14%	14%	15%	14%	14%
Forced you or tried to force you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%
Forced you or tried to force you to take part in another sexual activity when you did not want to	5%	4%	8%	5%	5%

*Base: Adults who had experienced partner abuse since the age of 16 (1,429)*

*Variable name: DA\_1iii*

**Table A1.7: % of adults who had experienced each form of physical abuse since the age of 16 by age and gender**  
**SCJS 2012-13**

	AGE					AGE/GENDER							
	All	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+	Male 16 - 24	Male 25 - 44	Male 45 - 59	Male 60+	Female 16 - 24	Female 25 - 44	Female 45 - 59	Female 60+
Pushed you or held you down	5%	6%	7%	6%	2%	2%	3%	1%	*	9%	11%	11%	3%
Kicked, bitten, or hit you	5%	4%	8%	7%	2%	3%	6%	5%	2%	5%	9%	8%	3%
Thrown something at you with the intention of causing harm	5%	4%	7%	5%	2%	2%	5%	4%	2%	6%	8%	6%	2%
Choked or tried to strangle/smother you	2%	1%	3%	3%	1%	1%	*	*	*	2%	6%	6%	2%
Used a weapon against you	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	4%	3%	1%
Forced you or tried to force you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%	*	*	*	2%	4%	6%	1%
Forced you or tried to force you to take part in another sexual activity when you did not want to	1%	1%	1%	1%	*	*	-	*	*	1%	2%	2%	*

*Base: Adults who have had a partner since the age of 16 (9,648)*

*Variable name: DA\_1iii*

**Table A1.8: % of adults who had experienced each form of physical abuse by victim status and area deprivation**  
**SCJS 2012-13**

	All	VICTIM STATUS		SIMD	
		Non Victim	Victim	15% most	Rest
Pushed you or held you down	5%	4%	10%	7%	5%
Kicked, bitten, or hit you	5%	5%	9%	8%	5%
Thrown something at you with the intention of causing harm	5%	4%	9%	6%	4%
Choked or tried to strangle/smother you	2%	2%	4%	3%	2%
Used a weapon against you	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%
Forced you or tried to force you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%
Forced you or tried to force you to take part in another sexual activity when you did not want to	1%	*	2%	1%	1%

*Base: Adults who have had a partner since the age of 16 (9,648)*

*Variable name: DA\_1iii*

**Table A1.9: % of adults who had experienced each form of psychological abuse since age of 16 by age and gender**  
SCJS2012/13

	AGE					AGE/GENDER							
	Total	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+	Male 16 - 24	Male 25 - 44	Male 45 - 59	Male 60+	Female 16 - 24	Female 25 - 44	Female 45 - 59	Female 60+
Behaved in a jealous or controlling way	8%	10%	11%	8%	2%	8%	7%	4%	1%	12%	15%	12%	3%
Repeatedly put you down so that you felt worthless	6%	7%	9%	8%	3%	3%	4%	3%	1%	10%	13%	12%	4%
Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	4%	6%	6%	4%	1%	4%	4%	3%	1%	8%	8%	6%	2%
Threatened to hurt you	4%	3%	6%	5%	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%	5%	9%	8%	3%
Stopped you having your fair share of the household money or taken money from you	2%	1%	3%	4%	1%	*	1%	1%	*	2%	5%	6%	2%
Threatened to kill or attempted to kill themselves as a way of making you do something or stopping you from doing something	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	*	4%	4%	3%	1%
Threatened to, attempted to or actually hurt themselves as a way of making you do something or stopping you from doing something	2%	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	5%	4%	3%	1%
Threatened you with a weapon	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	4%	3%	1%

**TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...**

**Table A1.9: (Continued)**

	AGE					AGE/GENDER							
	Total	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+	Male 16 - 24	Male 25 - 44	Male 45 - 59	Male 60+	Female 16 - 24	Female 25 - 44	Female 45 - 59	Female 60+
Threatened you with a weapon	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	4%	3%	1%
Threatened to hurt someone close to you, such as your children, family members, friends or pets	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	*	1%	*	*	1%	4%	3%	1%
Threatened to hurt your other / previous partner	2%	2%	3%	2%	*	1%	1%	1%	*	3%	5%	3%	1%
Threatened to kill you	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%	*	1%	*	*	1%	4%	4%	1%
Forced you to view material which you considered to be pornography	*	-	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	*

*Base: Adults who have had a partner since the age of 16 (9,648)*

*Variable name: DA\_1i\_01 to DA\_1i\_12*



**Table A1.10: % of adults who had experienced each form of psychological abuse since age of 16 by victim status and deprivation**  
SCJS2012/13

	Total	SIMD		VICTIM STATUS	
		15% most deprived	Remainder	Victim	Non-victim
Behaved in a jealous or controlling way	8%	10%	7%	13%	6%
Repeatedly put you down so that you felt worthless	6%	9%	6%	11%	6%
Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	4%	7%	4%	9%	3%
Threatened to hurt you	4%	6%	4%	7%	4%
Stopped you having your fair share of the household money or taken money from you	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%
Threatened to kill or attempted to kill themselves as a way of making you do something or stopping you from doing something	2%	3%	2%	4%	2%
Threatened to, attempted to or actually hurt themselves as a way of making you do something or stopping you from doing something	2%	4%	2%	4%	2%
Threatened you with a weapon	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%
Threatened to hurt someone close to you, such as your children, family members, friends or pets	2%	3%	1%	2%	1%
Threatened to hurt your other / previous partner	2%	3%	2%	4%	2%
Threatened to kill you	2%	3%	1%	3%	1%
Forced you to view material which you considered to be pornography	*	*	*	*	*

*Base: Adults who have had a partner since the age of 16 (9,648)*

*Variable name: DA\_1i\_01 to DA\_1i\_012*

## Annex 2: Methodology

### A.2.1 Sample

The SCJS uses a random probability sample method and is designed to be representative of adults aged 16 years and over, living in private households in Scotland (with the exception of some of the smaller islands). The sample is based on a systematic random selection of private residential addresses produced from the Royal Mail Postal Address File (PAF).

### A.2.2 Data collection

Questions on partner abuse were included in the self-completion section of the questionnaire, which was undertaken at the end of the main SCJS interview. Respondents were handed the interviewer's tablet computer and guided by the interviewer through a series of practice questions which explained how to use the computer. Where respondents were unable or unwilling to use the tablet computer themselves, interviewers administered the interview, showing the respondent the screen and helping them to input their answers.

### A.2.3 Response rate

The main survey was completed by 12,045 respondents, which represented a 67.7% response rate. The self-completion section was completed by 10,235 respondents. This represents 85% of all respondents who completed the main survey. The most common reason for refusing to complete the questionnaire was 'running out of time' (mentioned by 54% of respondents). Only 3.5% of respondents refused to complete the self-completion questionnaire because of worries about confidentiality. A detailed breakdown of people's reasons for not answering the self-completion questionnaire is provided in the Technical Report (section 6.6.2).

An equal proportion of men and women answered the self-completion questionnaire. However, the proportion of those who completed the self-completion section decreased significantly with age, falling from 93.2% for 16 to 19 year olds, to 62.8% for those aged 85 or older. Further information on response rates can be found in the Technical Report (section 3.4)

The proportion of those who completed the self-completion section in the SCJS 2012/13 (85%) was consistent with the previous two sweeps in 2010/11 (85%) and in 2009/10 (84%). However, the response rate to the SCJS 2008/09 self-completion questionnaire was 69%. The profile of those who responded to the SCJS 2012/13 was consistent with the previous three sweeps of the SCJS in terms of gender (an equal proportion of males and females) and age (a decreasing response rate with age).

### A.2.4 Weighting

Surveys are unlikely to be representative of the population as a whole. To account for this disparity, the SCJS is weighted to correct for unequal probabilities of selection, and variations in response rates from different groups. Given that not all respondents chose to answer the self-completion questionnaire, these data are weighted separately to the main questionnaire (using identical weighting procedures). Further details of the weighting used are provided in the technical report (section 4.4).

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### How to access background or source data

The data collected for this Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2012-13: Partner Abuse Report:

- ☐ are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics
- ☒ are available via an alternative route, UK Data Archive
- ☒ may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors.

Please contact [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Scottish_Crime_and_Justice_Survey@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) for further information.

- ☐ cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

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ISSN 2045 6964

ISBN 978-1-78412-627-8

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**Social Research series**

**ISSN 2045-6964**

**ISBN 978-1-78412-627-8**

**web only publication**

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Produced for the Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland,  
21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA

APS Group Scotland  
DPPAS32513 (06/14)

